



HISOKA RETURNS!

リターンズ!

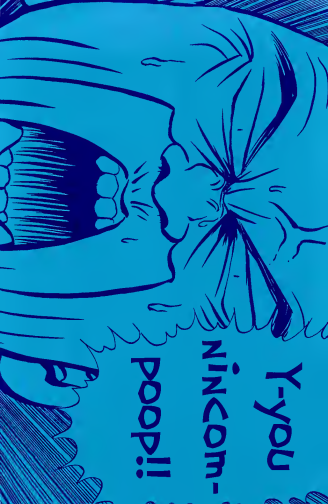
1



八神 健

Shigami Ken

SEED! COMICS



Y-you

nincom-

poopi

密・リターンズ!

HISOKA RETURNS!

1



八神 健

#1. FAREWELL, HASHIUMA HISOKAI

#2. THE WORST FIRST IMPRESSION!

#3. I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU!

#4. 25 MINUTES

#5. I WON'T DIE!

#6. OUT-OF-BODY EXPERIENCE

#7. I UNDERSTAND YOU!

#8. TEAR-STAINED CABBAGE ROLLS

#9. WHAT I CAN DO

#10. JUST LIKE A CHILD...

#11. JEALOUSY...

#12. I NEED TO BE STRONG!!

#13. I WANT TO BE ALONE...

#14. A FATED MEETING...

#15. RITO'S DECISION!

#16. SPECIAL SEAT

#17. THANKS TO YOU...

#18. A MAN WHO ABANDONED HIS PAST!

#19. DECLARATION OF WAR!

#20. I'M FINE...!





Special Thanks

to all who helped us publish this manga in English through
MANGAREBORN and **KICKSTARTER**
<http://en.mangareborn.jp/> and <http://go.gl/VNFVCG>

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IamHowie

►
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squidamus
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AT LEAST, TO ME,
HOSHIZAKI RITO,
HE WAS...

HASHIJIMA
HISOKA-
SENSEI
WAS TRULY
A GREAT
TEACHER...



#1. FAREWELL, HASHIJIMA HISOKA!

#1. FAREWELL, HASHIDIMA HISOKA!







SFX: wahaha yassay dang



SFX: rattle

EXCUSE
ME!!

Q-QUIET
DOWN...



SFX: clamor



SFX: clamor







SFX: flap creak

...THAT REMINDS ME, SENSEI.

IT'LL PROBABLY JUST RUN AND HIDE FROM ANYONE ELSE WHO FINDS IT.

ALRIGHT, RITO?

KEEP THE CAT A SECRET, ALRIGHT?

IT'S STILL NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO GO HUNT FOR ITSELF.

I'LL HAVE TO KEEP BRINGING FOOD OUT TO IT TILL TIME TO TIME.

flap

smile

BOOM

yay

SFX: rattle yay wahaha

SENJI!

YOU'RE LAAATE!

IT'S HASHI-JIMA!

WE ARE NO LONGER TEACHER AND STUDENT, YOU KNOW!

PLEASE STOP REFERRING TO ME AS "RITO" WHEN WE'RE AT SCHOOL.

SFX: You're laasate!

AND WHEN I WAS ACTUALLY HIS STUDENT, A WHOLE SEVEN YEARS AGO,

HE MADE THEM GET EVEN MORE WOUND UP...

THAT'S RIGHT. I'M NOT A STUDENT ANYMORE.

IT WAS ONLY FOR TWO WEEKS!

clence

clence

SFX: pitter patter



SFX: bam



7 YEARS AGO...



I'M NOT WEARING
MY UNIFORM, AND
NO ONE SHOULD
SUSPECT ANY-
THING IF I JUST
ACT NORMAL!

I'LL JUST HAVE
TO MAKE SURE NO
ONE EVER FINDS
OUT ABOUT IT...



SFX: tap twitch



SFX: pitter patter



I
CAN DO
THIS!



I-I JUST
HAVE TO
SEE IT ONE
LAST TIME...



I'LL GET IN SO MUCH
TROUBLE IF ANYONE
FINDS OUT. I MIGHT
EVEN MAKE MY MOM
CRY. "MY DAUGHTER
TURNED INTO
A JUVENILE
DELINQUENT!"



Huh?

DON'T YOU REMEMBER ME?



WHY AREN'T YOU IN YOUR UNIFORM? CLASS ALREADY STARTED.



JUST DON'T SKIP SCHOOL, ALRIGHT?

AH WELL. I'M LATE TODAY TOO, SO I SHOULDN'T BE TALKING.



H...HEY.



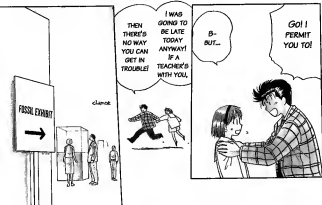
I'LL CHANGE AND GO TO SCHOOL NOW.

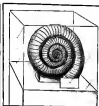
BUT I FEEL BETTER NOW THAT I WAS ABLE TO TELL YOU EVERYTHING.



I'M SORRY, SENSEI!







YOU
SHOULD
BECOME A
TEACHER.

RITO!

WAAH!



SFX: whoaaaaah

R-
REALLY?!

beep

DON'T
YOU THINK
YOU'D BE
GOOD AT
IT?

YOUR
"CLASSES"
ARE PRETTY
INTEREST-
ING.

HUH?



YEAH!





SFX: vroom beep



WHAT
COULD IT
BE?



patrick

patrick



SEN-
SEI!

HE DOESN'T
LOOK AT ME
THAT WAY,
DOES HE?



THERE'S NO
WAY...HE
COULD BE
THINKING
OF...
PROPOSING
TO ME,
RIGHT?

SFX: beep vroom



RING



THE
SHADOW OF
DEATH TRAILS
BEHIND YOU.



AHH,
HE'S GONE!



NOW TELL
ME WHAT YOU
WANTED TO
TALK ABOUT
ALREADY!



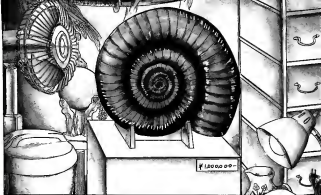
AHH!

GRAB

DON'T LISTEN
TO WEIRD
FORTUNES
LIKE THAT!

SENSEI!





MY...FIRST
CLASS...



I THOUGHT
HE WOULD HAVE
FORGOTTEN ABOUT
THAT BY NOW...



THAT I WAS
GOING TO BUY
IT FOR YOU NO
MATTER WHAT IT
TOOK.



WHEN I
FOUND THIS IN
THAT STORE, I
DECIDED

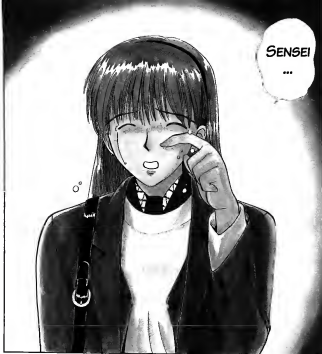
WHA...

INSTEAD
OF A RING.

PLEASE
ACCEPT IT,
RITO,







SENSEI

...

©



I'M
SORRY...
BUT...

sniff

OH, COME
ON, YOU
DUMMY!

DON'T CRY
IN A PLACE
LIKE THIS!



Help!



HM?



SENSEI
!!

SENSEI-
!!!!!!



HE'S DEAD
MEAT NOW!

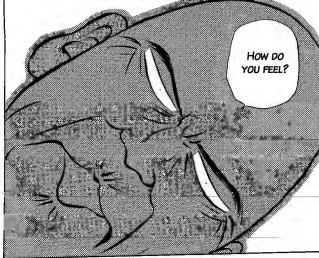
AND
HE JUST
PROPOSED,
TOO...

HE'S JUST
GONNA DIE
NOW?

I DON'T
BELIEVE
THIS.

WAHH,
OH NO!

THIS
IS BAD!



HOW DO
YOU FEEL?



EXCUSE
ME? I JUST
SAVED
YOUR
LIFE!

WHAT IF
I HAD DIED
FROM
SHOCK?!

YOU DID
CPR ON
ME, DIDN'T
YOU?!



YOU
SAVED
ME?!

HM?!



BLEGGGH!

WOW,
THAT WAS
QUICK.
YOU'RE A
FEISTY
ONE!



GAAAAAAAAHHH!



I WAS THE
ONE WHO GOT
SAVED?

HM?



WHY DO
I LOOK LIKE
THIS?!

NOT
THAT!



SOMEONE
KEEPS COMING
AND THROWING
AWAY TRASH
DOWN HERE
BY THE JIVER-
BED.

I
REALLY
WISH
THEY'D
STOP.

WOAH!
WHAT'S GOING
ON HERE?!



DON'T YOU
REMEMBER
WHEN I WARNED
YOU IN TOWN?

THAT'S
RIGHT! YOU
DIED ONCE!

YOU
SWITCHED MY
SOUL INTO THIS
BODY?!



THE BOY YOU
TRIED TO SAVE
WHEN YOU DROVE
INTO THE RIVER.



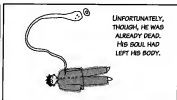
WAIT A
MINUTE,
FIRST, WHO
IS THIS?

YOU REALLY
SWITCHED MY
SOUL OUT?
BUT HOW?!



THESE
THINGS
HAPPEN
SOMETIMES.

THE BODY
ITSELF WAS
MORE OR
LESS IN GOOD
CONDITION,
THOUGH.



UNFORTUNATELY,
THOUGH, HE WAS
ALREADY DEAD.
HIS SOUL HAD
LEFT HIS BODY.



YOU DIED A
MEANINGLESS
DEATH FOR
SOMEONE
YOU DIDN'T
EVEN KNOW.



IF
ANYTHING.



YEAH,
PRETTY
MUCH.

YOU MEAN I
COULDN'T HAVE
SAVED HIM NO
MATTER HOW I
TRIED?



AND
BESIDES...I
WOULDN'T
HAVE BEEN
ABLE TO LIVE
WITH MYSELF IF
I HAD IGNORED
HIM.

IT WASN'T
A MEANINGLESS
DEATH! LOOK, I'M
ALIVE RIGHT NOW!



WAIT
WAIT
WAIT!

THIS
TRAINING
WAS...

SHIFF

I LEARNED A
VARIETY OF
"ARTS" DURING
MY TUTELAGE
DEEP IN THE
MOUNTAINS OF
TIBET.

MY
NAME'S
TORAUMA.



WHAT?

Hmm?

?



WASHOO



WHEN YOU
WERE IN
TIBET?

YOU BROUGHT
ME BACK TO
LIFE WITH SOME
WEIRD MAGIC
YOU LEARNED

SO BASI-
CALLY,

THAT'S
WHAT
YOU'RE
TRYING TO
SAY, RIGHT?



THIS HAS ANSWERED ALL MY QUESTIONS FOR THE TIME BEING ANYWAY.

WELL, I SURE DON'T WANT TO SIT HERE FOR AN HOUR LISTENING TO SOME EXPLANATION ABOUT YOUR TRAINING.

I'M NOT SURE IF I AGREE WITH THE USAGE OF THE WORD "WEIRD" IN REGARDS TO MY ARTS, HOWEVER.

HMM...WELL, YES, THOSE ARE ALL THE MAIN POINTS.



W...WAIT! YOU CAN'T DO THAT!

I GET SHE'S REALLY WORRIED ABOUT ME.

I NEED TO GO TELL RITO!

LATER, GRAMPS!

WAIT! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?



I HAVE SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO TELL YOU, SO LISTEN UP.

OF COURSE NOT!

YOU MEAN YOU'RE NOT GONNA LET ME LEAVE UNTIL I HEAR ABOUT YOUR TRAINING?

WHY NOT?



THEN THE LINK
BETWEEN THAT
BODY AND YOUR
SOUL WILL BE
COMPLETELY
SEVERED.

THEREFORE, IF
SOMEONE ELSE
FINDS OUT THAT
YOU'RE ACTUALLY
"HASHIJIMA
HISOKA,"

THE
CONNECTION
YOUR SOUL
HAS TO THAT
BODY IS A
VERY THIN ONE.



YOU MEAN
I'LL DIE?!



EVEN IF YOU
HAPPEN TO MEET
HER AGAIN AT SOME
POINT, YOU WON'T BE
ABLE TO LET HER
KNOW WHO YOU
REALLY ARE.



FROM THIS
POINT ON, YOU
WILL HAVE TO LIVE
OUT YOUR LIFE AS
ANOTHER
PERSON.





IF YOU ABANDON YOUR
PAST LIFE, THEN YOU'LL
BE ABLE TO LIVE OUT A
WHOLE NEW ONE
WITHOUT ANY TROUBLE.

YOU'RE ONLY
IN PAIN NOW
BECAUSE YOU STILL
REMEMBER THE
PERSON YOU
LOVED.



THEN, I COULD
USE ANOTHER
"ART" TO ERASE
YOUR MEMORIES.

SFX puff...



.....

HERE, BRING
YOUR HEAD
CLOSER.

SFX skritch



DON'T TELL
ME YOU'RE
GOING TO
GO SEE HER!



.....



Her?

WHERE
ARE YOU
GOING?



THE
NEXT
DAY

BUT
LAST NIGHT,
HASHIJIMA-
SENSEI DIED IN
AN ACCIDENT.

I'M SURE MOST
OF YOU HAVE
ALREADY FOUND
OUT FROM THE
NEWSPAPER AND
THE NEWS.



HOW CAN
THEY CALL IT
AN ACCIDENT,
THEN?

HE CAN'T
EVEN SWIM,
AND HE
JUMPED IN A
RIVER!

THAT'S
CERTAINLY
ONE WAY
TO PUT IT.

HE WAS A
GOOD TEACHER,
THOUGH IN HIS
LAST MOMENTS,
AT LEAST.



SFX: rattle yassy

IT'S
RITTO!

THE
DOOR
FELL
OFF!

ガ
ガ
ガ
ざ
ざ
ざ



ding
dong



SFX: clamor





WHAT'S WITH RITO?
SHE'S ACTING JUST AS
SHE ALWAYS DOES.



USUALLY
SHE'S SUCH A
CRYBABY...



Yooo!



WELL,
THAT'S A
RELIEF. AT
LEAST, IT
SHOULD
BE.

BUT NOW I
FEEL A BIT
DOWN...



HUH?



I BROUGHT
YOU SOME
MORE FOOD.

SO YOU'RE
STILL ALIVE
TOO!



LOOKS LIKE
SOMEONE AL-
READY BEAT
ME TO IT.



MROW!





NOW THAT I THINK
ABOUT IT, WHEN I
PROPOSED TO HER,

RYO MERELY CRIED. I DON'T
THINK SHE GAVE ME AN
ACTUAL ANSWER...



DOES ANYONE
RECALL THAT
NIGHT?

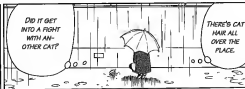
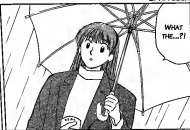
MAYBE
RYO...



SFX: jerk



SFX: fresh





SFX crash

SFX grab











SFX: grab

YOU IDIOT!
WHY WOULD
YOU PUSH
YOURSELF
LIKE THIS?!

HOW COULD
YOU GO OUT
IN THE RAIN
IN THIS
CONDITION?!

WOAH,
YOU'RE
BURNING UP!

RITO!

WHAT'S
WRONG?
HANG IN
THERE!





RITO!

L

....?



I'M...
HERE...



BUT
YOU JUST
WOULDN'T
LISTEN.

I KNEW
YOU SHOULD
HAVE TAKEN A
FEW DAYS
OFF...

YOU WERE
IN SO MUCH PAIN
THAT YOU WEREN'T
ABLE TO SLEEP AT
NIGHT...



ONE OF
MINE?

I'M NOT
SURE.

HE SAT
BY YOU UNTIL
JUST A BIT
AGO.

A STUDENT
BROUGHT YOU
BACK HERE.



L





efx: smack



efx: fwap





THIS IS
MY NAME
NOW.



I FOUND IT
IN THIS
GUY'S
POCKET.

YEAH.

"NARUKAMI
GENGOROU,
CLASS 1-4,
FULWA HIGH
SCHOOL?"

WHAT'S
THAT
PASS
SAY?



WHILE
KEEPING MY
MEMORIES OF
BEING
HASHIJIMA!!

I'VE DECIDED
THAT I'M
GOING TO GO
ON LIVING AS
NARUKAMI
GENGOROU



I DON'T
MIND.



THINGS WILL
NEVER BE THE
SAME! I'LL
ONLY BRING
YOU PAIN!

NO MATTER
HOW MUCH YOU
KEEP LOVING
HER, YOU'LL
NEVER BE ABLE
TO TELL HER
WHO YOU ARE!

YOU'RE A
COMPLETE
STRANGER TO
THAT WOMAN
NOW!



A-ARE YOU
SURE ABOUT
THAT?!



SFX: thud



SFX: shure



NISOKA RETURNS!



発行 ペンぎん書房



高校教師の雄鳥密は、元教え子で同僚の
星崎理都にプロポーズした直後、
川で溺れた少年を助けようとして命を落としてしまう。
借借・寅午の「誕生の雨」のおかげで
何とか命は取り留めた密だが、
その境は助けようとした少年・晴林源五郎の体に入ってしまった!
週刊少年ジャンプで大人気を博った名作
「密・リターンズ!」がSEED! COMICSに新登場!!

#2. THE WORST FIRST IMPRESSION!



YAAAAWWN.

HMMM.

LEGENDARY
SCHOOL

THE "ART" THAT
BROUGHT YOU
BACK TO LIFE WILL
LOOSE ALL YOUR
AND YOU WILL DIE!

THE MOMENT
YOU LET SOME-
ONE KNOW
THAT YOU'RE
ACTUALLY
HASHIKUMA
HISOKA.

ALRIGHT
ALREADY!

YOU MUST
BE CAREFUL FROM
HERE ON OUT!

I'M TOTALLY
AWAKE OF ALL
THIS!

NOW I'M
NARUKAMI
GENGOROU, A
STUDENT IN
CLASS 1-4 AT
FUJIMA HIGH.

THE HIGH SCHOOL
TEACHER NAMED
HASHIKUMA
HISOKA IS DEAD.



I DID SAY
THOSE
WORDS,
DIDN'T I?
'NO MATTER
WHAT...'

NO MATTER
WHAT IT
TAKES!



I GET TO FALL
IN LOVE WITH
RITO ALL OVER
AGAIN!



STILL, HAVING TO SIT
THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL
CLASSES ALL OVER AGAIN
IS A REAL PAIN... I WISH
SCHOOL WOULD HURRY UP
AND END ALREADY!



SO TODAY
WILL BE HER
TRUE FIRST
MEETING
WITH
GONGOROU.

SHE
FAINTED
THEN.

IT'S BEEN ONE WEEK SINCE
THE ACCIDENT, THERE WAS
A LOT OF CHAOS AFTER I
CAME BACK TO LIFE, SO I
WASN'T REALLY FREE TO
MOVE AROUND, BUT... FINALLY,
TODAY, I SHOULD BE ABLE
TO GO AND SEE RITO!



AD LIBBING IT
IS THE BEST
WAY TO GO!
NOW COME ON,
SCHOOL, END
ALREADY!!

MAN, THERE'S
NO POINT IN
THINKING
ABOUT STUFF
LIKE THAT BE-
FOREHAND.

WHAT SHOULD
BE THE FIRST
THING I SAY
TO HER?

OUR FIRST
MEETING...

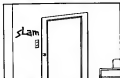


HUH?
RITO'S
WHAT?!



SHE'S BEEN AT HOME EVER SINCE THAT NIGHT IN THE RAIN?





IN PLACE
OF A RING.

PLEASE
ACCEPT IT,
RITA.

WHEN I FOUND
THIS IN THE
STORE,

I DECIDED THAT
THIS WAS
YOUR
MARRY
RING.





HASHIJIMA
DIED IN ORDER
TO SAVE
GENGOROU.

YEAH.

RIGHT AT THIS
MOMENT, ARE
YOU AWARE
THAT YOU'RE
GENGOROU?

IN OTHER
WORDS,

I KNOW!
ENOUGH
ALREADY!

YOU ARE
NOT
HASHIJIMA
HISAOKA!

WHAT ARE
YOU TRYING
TO SAY?

WHAT
?!

IT MEANS
THAT YOU,
HASHIJIMA DIED
BECAUSE OF
GENGOROU!

IF WE WERE
TO LOOK AT
THIS FROM A
NEGATIVE
ANGLE,

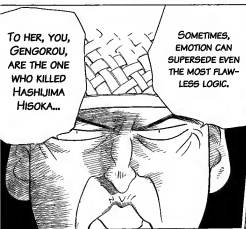


LOGI-
CALLY,
THAT'S
TRUE.



I'M THE ONE
WHO IGNORED
RITO'S PLEAS
TO STOP AND
JUMPED IN!

H-HEY, WHAT
ARE YOU TALK-
ING ABOUT?!
GENGOROU'S
INNOCENT!



TO HER, YOU,
GENGOROU,
ARE THE ONE
WHO KILLED
HASHIJIMA
HISOKA...

SOMETIMES,
EMOTION CAN
SUPERSEDE EVEN
THE MOST FLAW-
LESS LOGIC.



BUT
GENGOROU...



ONLY BECAUSE
YOU HAVEN'T
THOUGHT
ABOUT IT
ENOUGH!

DON'T YOU
THINK YOU'VE
THOUGHT
ABOUT THIS A
LITTLE TOO
MUCH?



*Deep emotions
is really hard!*



BUT IF YOU
THINK YOU CAN
JUST PICK UP
WHERE YOU LEFT
OFF, YOU'RE IN
FOR A BIG
SURPRISE!

YOU WERE
ALSO ABOUT
TO START AN
INTIMATE
RELATIONSHIP
TOGETHER.

TO YOU, SHE
IS YOUR STUDENT
AND YOUR
CO-WORKER.



IT'LL
BE FINE!



GOING TO
MEET HER OUT
OF THE BLUE
LIKE THIS WILL
ONLY MAKE HER
WARY.

GENGOROU,
IS A STUDENT
SHE DOESN'T
KNOW.

TO HER,
THE
CURRENT
YOU,



BUT JUST
REMEMBER
THIS: FIRST
IMPRESSIONS
ARE
EXTREMELY
IMPORTANT.

I SEE...



I CARRIED HER TO HER
HOUSE WHEN SHE
FANDED, SO IT'S ONLY
NATURAL THAT I'D GO
BACK TO CHECK UP ON
HER. WHAT'S UNNATURAL
ABOUT THAT?

I'M JUST
GOING TO
CHECK UP ON
HER SINCE
SHE'S SICK.



SFX: ding dong



SFX: dash









SFX: hahaha



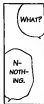
BUT THIS IS PROOF THAT
SHE DOESN'T THINK THAT
GENDROU WAS
"RESPONSIBLE" FOR
HASHIUMA'S DEATH AT ALL!
THAT OLD FART IS SUCH A
WORRYWART! HE GOT ME
ALL WORKED UP...



SHE
NEVER LETS
HERSELF GET
EMOTIONAL!

THERE SHE GOES,
GIVING ME A COLD
REPRIMAND AS
ALWAYS! I'D EXPECT
NO LESS FROM THE
QUEEN OF THE BOOK-
WORMS.









OR DO
YOU HAVE
SOME ULTERIOR
MOTIVE?!

YOU
DON'T NEED
TO COME
BACK!



AS YOU
CAN SEE, I
NO LONGER
HAVE A
FEVER!

IF YOU ONLY CAME
HERE TO CHECK UP
ON ME, THEN
YOU'VE ALREADY
DONE WHAT YOU'VE
CAME FOR, HAVEN'T
YOU?



NOW
THAT YOU
MENTION
IT.

NO...NOT
PARTICULARLY.

I WANT TO
COME BACK
BECAUSE I
LIKE YOU.



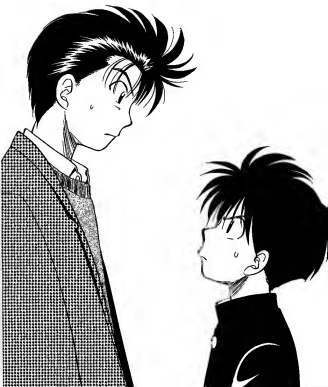






NISOKA RETURNS!

#3. I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU!



I'M MORE INTERESTED
IN LIVING CREATURES,
THOUGH. LIKE CATS, DOGS,
BIRDS, AND FISH...AND ALL
OF YOU STUDENTS! I NEVER
GET TIRED OF WATCHING
YOU. IT'S REALLY FUN!

WOW, FOSSILS
ARE ACTUALLY
PRETTY COOL!



I THINK
HASHIJIMA-SENSEI
CARED MORE ABOUT
HIS STUDENTS THAN
ANY OTHER
TEACHER I EVER
MET...



I REALLY
WANTED TO
BECOME A
TEACHER JUST
LIKE HIM...







IF HE HAD LIVED LONGER, SHE COULD HAVE PERHAPS FOUND OUT ABOUT SOME OF HIS WEAKNESSES OR BAD POINTS, BUT NOW THAT HE'S DEAD, HE'S BECOME A FLAWLESS IDEALIZATION!

AS OF NOW, HASHIJIMA IS IMMORTAL IN HER MEMORIES.

THAT'S NOTHING BUT A BIG PROBLEM FOR YOU NOW!

WHAT ARE YOU GETTING SO GIDDY FOR?

YEAH...I GUESS SO!

Hehehehe

I'M MY OWN RIVAL...?

BUT...BUT IT'S JUST ME!

NOW THAT YOU'RE GENGOROU, THAT IDEALIZED VERSION OF HASHIJIMA IS NOTHING BUT A RIVAL TO YOU!

RITO!

ER, WHOOPS, I MEAN, SENSEI

SHE
DIDN'T EVEN
SPEAK TO
ME...

GUESS THIS'LL
BE A BATTLE
OF ENDURANCE!



SFX: echo

SFX: slam



SFX: hahaha

I SUPPOSE
HUMANS GET
EXCITED WHEN
THEY HAVE A
TARGET TO
FOCUS THEIR
ANGER ON.

SHE
GOT HER
APPETITE
BACK.

SHE SEEMS
TO HAVE BEEN
GETTING
BETTER EVER
SINCE YOU
CAME,
THOUGH.

IS SHE
TALKING
ABOUT
ME?



SHE'S STILL
SHUT UP IN
HER ROOM.



AREN'T YOU
COLD? WHY
DON'T YOU
COME IN AND
HAVE A CUP OF
TEA?



IT'S THE
PATH SHE
CHOSE
HERSELF,
AFTER ALL.

BUT I WANT
MY DAUGHTER
TO CONTINUE
WORKING AS A
TEACHER.

I SUPPOSE
SHE WAS REALLY
SHOCKED WHEN THAT
FELLOW CALLED
HASHIJIMA-SAN DIED...



BECAUSE HE HAS A
FRIEND WHO WORKED
AS A TEACHER, AND
BECAME A VICTIM OF
SCHOOL VIOLENCE
WHICH EVENTUALLY LED
TO HIM HAVING A
NERVOUS BREAKDOWN.

IT DOESN'T
SEEM
LIKE THAT
CONTROVER-
SIAL AN
OCCUPATION.

WHY
WAS
THAT?

AND SHE SAID SHE
WANTED TO BE A
TEACHER, HER
FATHER WAS
VEHEMENTLY
AGAINST IT.

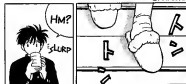
WHEN IT
WAS TIME
FOR HER
UNIVERSITY
EXAMS,

IN THE END,
RITO LEFT
HOME...



THIS IS THE
PATH I CHOSE
FOR MYSELF!
I'LL DO IT ON
MY OWN IF I
HAVE TO!

MY HUSBAND
WAS MERELY
WORRIED,
BUT HE
STRONGLY
DISCOUR-
AGED HER.





SFX: bam

SFX: flap





I DON'T
CARE WHAT
HAPPENS
ANYMORE!

NOW THAT
HASHIJIMA-
SENSEI'S
GONE...I...

I'M GOING
TO QUIT BEING
A TEACHER
ANYWAY!



SFX: whap



AHH!



WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?!

WH-



ST...

STOOOP
!!

YOU KNOW
WHAT I THINK
OF THIS?!

SFX: fwoosh





A WOMAN
CLINGING TO HER
MEMORIES OF
SOMEONE WHO'S
DEAD AND GONE?!
A WOMAN WHO
DOESN'T EVEN BAT
AN EYE TOWARD
LIVING PEOPLE?!

IS THAT THE
WOMAN THAT
HASHIUMA
HISOKA FELL IN
LOVE WITH?!



WHY DID YOU
EVEN BECOME A
TEACHER IN THE
FIRST PLACE?!





THE
NEXT
MORNING...

CHIRP

CHIRP

SFX: click



DID I GO
A LITTLE
TOO FAR
YESTERDAY?



YOU WERE
RIGHT. I CAN'T
STOP BEING A
TEACHER...



I'LL
NEVER
FORGIVE
YOU!

EVEN SO, YOU
HAD NO RIGHT
TO TRAMPLE
ON AND
DESTROY MY
MEMORIES.

BUT...

Grip

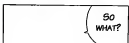


YOU'VE
FALLEN INTO
AN EVEN
DEEPER
GRAVE NOW.



SHE
HATES
YOU EVEN
MORE.

NOW
WHAT ARE
YOU GOING
TO DO?



SO
WHAT?



YOU WERE
PEEPING ON US
AGAIN? DON'T
YOU HAVE ANY-
THING ELSE TO
DO?

GRAMP!

I LOVE HOW
PASSIONATE
AND HARD-
WORKING
RITO IS!

SHE CAN
HATE ME AS
MUCH AS SHE
WANTS.

JUST AS
LONG AS SHE
DOESN'T STOP
BEING A
TEACHER!

I'M GOING TO
MAKE YOU LOVE
ME IF IT'S THE
LAST THING I
DO, RITO!

YOU REALLY
AREN'T GOING
TO CHANGE
YOUR MIND
ABOUT HER,
ARE YOU?

...THIS
IS DURE
INDEED.

HISOKA RETURNS!





IT'S
ALREADY
BEEN TWO
WEEKS
SINCE YOU
PASSED
AWAY.

HASHIWA-
SAGE...



SO I'M TAKING
CARE OF THEM
NOW. YOU CAN
REST AT EASE.



I
WAS THE
ASSISTANT
TO YOUR
CLASS.



EVERY-
ONE'S
DOING
VERY
WELL.



THE CAT YOU
WERE KEEPING
BEHIND THE
SCHOOL IS
HEALTHY NOW
AND ALWAYS
EATS ALL ITS
FOOD.

#4. 25 MINUTES





SHOWING ME
SOMETHING
NEW. I CAN'T
ANYMORE
GOOD-BY ANY
MORE...

FORGIVE
YOU!



I'LL
NEVER



I GUESS BEING
NEITHER HATED
NOR LOVED IS
THE WORST
POSITION I
COULD BE IN.

"HATE" AND
"LOVE" ARE
JUST TWO
SIDES OF
THE SAME
COIN. WELL,
NOW THAT
I THINK
ABOUT IT,



IF SHE SEES
ME EVERY
DAY, HER
FEELINGS
SHOULD
CHANGE...

I'LL JUST
HAVE TO KEEP
VISITING RITO
EVERY DAY
UNTIL HER COIN
FLIPS OVER!



IF I SAY
THAT I JUST
CAME TO
CHECK UP ON
THE CAT...

I CAN'T JUST
GO IN THERE
AND SEE HER
WHenever I
PLEASE... BUT!

BUT I ALREADY
WENT TO CHECK
UP ON HER, SO
I'VE LOST MY
EXCUSE TO MAKE
A VISIT. AND
SINCE GENDOROU
GOES TO
ANOTHER SCHOOL,

IF I JUST SAY I
CAME TO SEE THE
CAT, NOT HER,
THEN SHE CAN'T
SAY ANYTHING!

THEN I COULD
POTENTIALLY SEE
HER EVERY DAY
AFTER SCHOOL!









SFX: dash



SFX: step





SFX: kick



SFX: grab



SFX: dash





臨

**BUT I'M
GOING TO
KEEP
COMING!**

Item

51x dash

A FEW
DAYS
LATER,
AFTER
CLASS.

7-43

Review

1997年1月
 1997年1月
 1997年1月
 1997年1月

1. **THE**
 2. **THE**
 3. **THE**

RESEARCH



SFX: haa, haa



BUT I BET SHE
WON'T EVEN
WAIT A MINUTE
FOR ME NOW!

IF I WAS
HASHIMA
HISOKA, SHE
PROBABLY
WOULD BE WAIT-
ING FOR ME...



SFX: dash



SFX: hop



sfx: step

SFX: whack

OMMMWW!
I JUST
PUNCHED A
HELMET!

RESPECT
YOUR
ELDERS!

SFX: vroom

SFX: screech

YOU
MAKE
IT!

I SHALL JUST
HAVE TO SETTLE
WITH MEETING
RITO AS SHE'S
ABOUT TO
LEAVE!



SFX: bam





WHEN I
WAS STILL
HASHIUMA
HISOKA...



I DIDN'T EVEN
THINK ABOUT
HOW HAPPY THAT
WAS MAKING ME.

OH, SORRY,
I WAS JUST
BORROW-
ING IT.

PLEASE
STOP
TAKING MY
CHALK!

SORRY!

ALL I HAD TO
DO WAS GO TO
SCHOOL EVERY
DAY TO SEE
HER FACE. I
COULD EVEN
TALK TO HER,
TOO.



HAS BECOME
SOMETHING
SO IMMENSE?

AS OF NOW,
SOMETHING
THAT SIMPLE



SOME-
THING
THAT
SIMPLE

AND NOW, I
CAN'T EVEN
DO

I WANT TO SEE
RITO! I WANT TO
SEE HER FACE!

AAAAARRGGH!
I'M SICK OF
THIS!!

WHY DO I
HAVE TO WORK
SO HARD FOR
SOMETHING THAT
SIMPLE?





I HAVEN'T
SEEN HIM FOR
A WHOLE
WEEK NOW.

ONE WEEK
LATER, AT
FLURA
HIGH...



WHY CAN'T I
GET HIM OUT
OF MY HEAD?



I GUESS IT'S ONLY
NORMAL, THOUGH.
KIDS HIS AGE WILL
THROW AROUND THE
WORD 'LIKE' AND
THEN QUICKLY
CHANGE THEIR MIND.



WE'VE GOT A
NEW TRANSFER
STUDENT, AND
IT'S BEEN
DECIDED THAT HE
WILL JOIN YOUR
CLASS. TAKE
GOOD CARE OF
HIM NOW.

AHH,
S-SORRY,
VICE-
PRINCIPAL!



HOSHIZAKI-
SENSEI.

Owww!

SFX: bam



Huh?



SO
PLEASE
COME
INTO THE
MEETING
ROOM.

HE INSISTED ON
INTRODUCING
HIMSELF TO YOU
"IMMEDIATELY."



NICE TO MEET
YOU, RITO-
GENGOU!

I'M NARUKAMI
GENGOROU, THE
NEW TRANSFER
STUDENT!

HUH...?!

HUUUUUUH?!



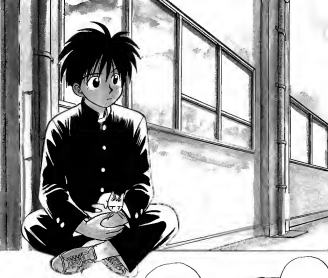


HISOKA RETURNS.

#5. I WON'T DIE!







PLEASE, I
BEG YOU!

YOU
REQUESTED TO
BE PUT IN MY
CLASS.

YOU EVEN GAVE
A SPEECH IN
FRONT OF THE
VICE PRINCIPAL!

I HEARD
WHAT
YOU DID!



PLEASE PUT ME IN
CLASS 1-B!!



IS THERE
ANY PAR-
TICULAR
REASON
WHY?



H-HHEY!
YOU'RE IN NO
POSITION TO
BE MAKING
REQUESTS!



I NEVER LEARNED
ANYTHING
DIRECTLY FROM
HIM, BUT
IN MY HEART,
HASHIJIMA-
SENSEI IS A
TEACHER I AM
GRAVELY
INDEBTED TO!

A TEACHER
FROM THIS
SCHOOL,
HASHIJIMA-
SENSEI,
SAVED MY
LIFE.

いっ
わっ

I WANT TO BE IN
HASHIJIMA-SENSEI'S
CLASS AND STUDY
WITH HASHIJIMA-
SENSEI'S STUDENTS!



NOT TO MENTION
THAT THE VICE
PRINCIPAL'S
ESPECIALLY WEAK
TOWARD THOSE
KINDS OF
STORES!

THAT'S SO
UNFAIR!

I CAN'T BELIEVE
YOU WOULD PLAY
THAT CARD...

THAT'S NOT
WHAT I
MEAN!

OUR
HOUSES ARE
IN THE SAME
DIRECTION.

WHY DO YOU
INSIST ON
HANGING AROUND
ME SO MUCH?

BUT I TOLD
YOU
ALREADY.







BUT I KNOW THAT
YOU BEAR NO
RESPONSIBILITY FOR
HASHIKUMA-SENSEI'S
ACCIDENT.

I STILL HAVEN'T
FORGIVEN YOU
FOR BREAKING
MY AMMONITE...



I'M NOT
BLAMING
YOU OR
ANYTHING.

DON'T
MISUNDER-
STAND.



I'LL FIGURE IT
OUT SOMEHOW!

BESIDES,
YOU CAN'T SWIM,
CAN YOU?

LET'S
LEAVE THIS
TO A
RESCUE
TEAM!

IF
ONLY
—
|



IT'S
ACTUALLY
QUITE THE
OPPO-
SITE...

I CAN'T
FORGIVE
MYSELF!



HASHIUMA
SENSEI

...

MIGHT
STILL BE
ALIVE
RIGHT
NOW...

IF ONLY I
HAD HELD ON
TIGHTER, AND
NOT LET GO...

I HADN'T
LET GO...



IF
ONLY

...



DON'T SAY
THAT, RYO!

Sensei



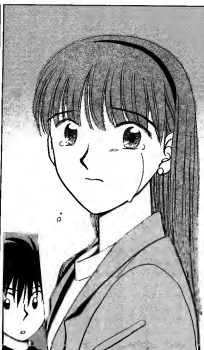
'I WOULD
HAVE HAPPILY
LET YOU DIE IN
EXCHANGE FOR
HASHIUMA-
SENSEI.'

I'M
TERRIBLE,
AREN'T I?

THAT'S BASI-
CALLY WHAT
I'M SAYING.



NO, NOT BECAUSE
GODDAMN ANYWAY
WAS A POSSIBILITY!



**A MOTHERLY INSTINCT TOLD
HER: "ANYONE WHO'S
ABOUT TO BE KILLED
GIVES IT A TELLING!"**

WHY DOES RITO
HAVE TO SUFFER SO
MUCH AS A RESULT,
THOUGH?!

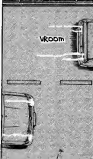


**(RESERVED TO ME!
I WAS JUST BEING
A HUGE IDOT!)**





SFX: vroom



SFX: leap



SFX: vrrrrrrrrrr



GRAAHHH



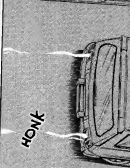
gfx: freeze



ooooooooooooo!









SLAP





I WON'T
LET YOU
THROW IT
AWAY!

YOU HAVE
TO TREASURE
IT...

bam

HASHIJIMA-
SENSEI GAVE HIS
LIFE TO SAVE
YOURS!



I DON'T WANT TO
SEE ANYONE ELSE
DIE IN FRONT OF ME.



YOU'RE
WRONG

NO.

WHAT DO
YOU THINK WOULD
HAVE HAPPENED IF
I HADN'T STOPPED
YOU?!



slide

THIS TIME,
THOUGH, I
HESITATED

FOR A
MOMENT.

IF I WAS STILL
HASHIJIMA, I WOULD
HAVE JUMPED OUT
BEFORE YOU COULD
HAVE STOPPED ME...

Grab

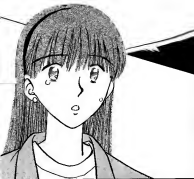


MY LEGS
WEAKENED,
AND I FROZE
BECAUSE I
DIDN'T WANT
TO DIE.



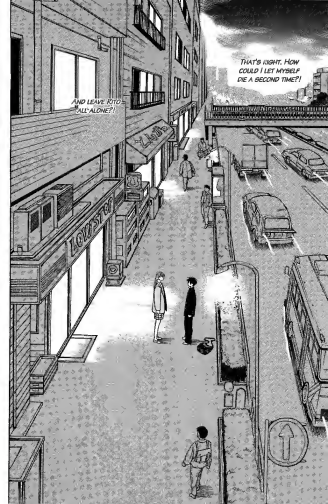
BECAUSE,
RITO...I MEAN,
RITO-SENSEI...I
LIKE YOU.

I WON'T DIE.

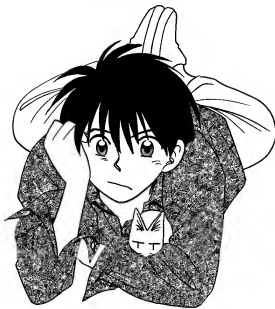


AND LEAVE ITO
"ALL ALONE?"

THAT'S RIGHT. HOW
COULD I LET MYSELF
DIE A SECOND TIME?!



#6. OUT-OF-BODY EXPERIENCE





YOU
N-NINCOMPOOP!!

WHAT DO
YOU WANT,
GRAMPS?



GEEZ,
THAT
SCARED
ME!

"IT'S THE FIRST
TIME OUR SON'S
EVER SHOWN
INITIATIVE
ABOUT ANY-
THING!"

GEN-
GOROU'S
PARENTS
WERE HAPPY
ABOUT IT,
YOU KNOW.



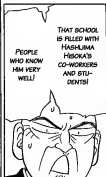
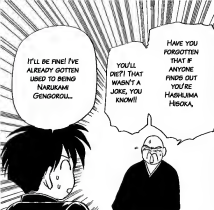
HOW COULD
YOU BE SO
IMPRUDENT?!

YOU TRANS-
FERRED INTO
THE SCHOOL
YOU USED TO
WORK AT?!



LISTEN
CARE-
FULLY!

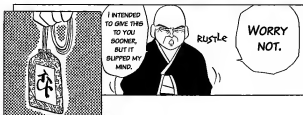
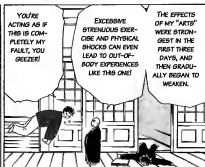




SFX: thud









A
CHARM?



IT'S A TYPE
OF SEAL THAT
CAN KEEP YOU
FROM HAVING
OUT-OF-BODY
EXPERIENCES.

KEEP IT
ON YOUR
PERSON
AT ALL
TIMES.

SFX: slip

IT'S NOT THAT
CONVENIENT,
YOU MORON!



AS LONG AS I
HAVE THIS ON, I
CAN TELL
PEOPLE WHO I
REALLY AM?

YOU
MEAN...

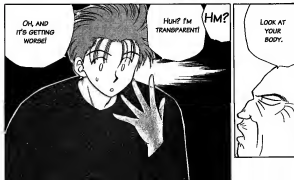


LISTEN TO
PEOPLE WHEN
THEY SPEAK TO
YOU!



I'LL EX-
PLAIN.

IT'S MERELY
A TOOL THAT
SUPPORTS
THE EFFECTS
OF MY
"ARTS."



IF YOU STAY IN THIS FORM FOR A PROLONGED AMOUNT OF TIME, ALL YOUR SOUL ENERGY WILL GET USED UP AND YOU'LL BE UNABLE TO GO BACK INTO YOUR BODY! IN OTHER WORDS, "DEATH!"

WITHOUT YOUR TRUE BODY TO CONTAIN YOUR ENERGY, IT WILL GRADUALLY SLIP AWAY FROM YOU DURING OUT-OF-BODY EXPERIENCES...



Y-YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME



I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS!



LATER, GRAMPS!

THE SA
MARE OF THE
OCEAN, AND
CUTTING
ACROSS THE
II





SFX: beep boop



SFX: yay

IT MAY BE HARD
TO TALK TO HER
FOR A WHILE, BUT
I SHOULD JUST
BE HAPPY THAT I
GET TO SEE HER
EVERY DAY NOW.

YESTERDAY,
RITO AND I
FINISHED OUR
MEETING ON A
BAD NOTE.



HER BROTHER
BROUGHT HER
HERE, BUT HE AC-
CIDENTALLY LOST
SIGHT OF HER FOR
A MOMENT.

A CHILD WHO
WAS WAITING
FOR THE
PRESCHOOL BUS
SUDDENLY
DISAPPEARED!





THE ONE
EVERYONE'S
LOOKING
FOR!

YOU'RE THE
BROTHER OF UHH, ER --
YOSHIDA
TERUKO-CHAN,
THE MISSING
GIRL, RIGHT?



HUH?

YOU'RE
YOSHIDA
AKIRA!

YOSHIDA!



NO --

AMHHL...
HAVE
YOU
SEEN
HER?

SHE WAS
WEARING A
YELLOW HAT,
AND SHE'S
ABOUT THIS
TALL...



YOSHIDA...

AMHHL...MY
LITTLE SISTER
DISAPPEARED!
AMHHL...MY POOR
LITTLE SISTER...

WE'LL BE
CLASSMATES
INSTEAD OF
TEACHER AND
STUDENT!

EVEN IF HE
ISN'T THE
SHARPEST
TOOL IN THE
SHED...AND
NOW,

YOSHIDA'S
ALWAYS BEEN
A NICE GUY
WHO REALLY
LOVES HIS
SISTER,



SFX: dash

I NEED
TO FIND
TERUKO-
CHAN!

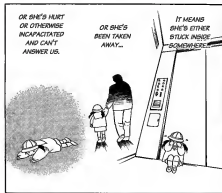
NOW ISN'T
THE TIME TO BE
OVERCOME WITH
EMOTION!



AMHHL...
THANK
YOU!

BUT I'LL HELP
YOU LOOK
FOR HER, SO
DON'T CRY!

PAT



SFX: dash



BUT AT
THIS RATE,
WE'LL
NEVER
FINISH
SEARCH-
ING!



SHE'S A SMALL
KID, SO WE'VE
GOT TO CHECK
EVEN THE
TINIEST NOOKS
AND CRANNIES,

SFX: pop



I'LL BE ABLE TO
SEARCH
WHEREVER I
PLEASE!

THAT WAY I'LL
BE ABLE TO
PASS THROUGH
INTO ROOMS,
INSIDE CARS,
EVEN INSIDE
BORES!

I JUST
NEED TO
HAVE AN-
OTHER
OUT-OF-
BODY EX-
PERIENCE!



I MAY HAVE
GOTTEN A BIT BACK, BUT I
PROBABLY CAN'T STAY OUT
FOR MORE THAN 5 OR 6
MINUTES.

I JUST WASTED
A LOT OF ENERGY
BACK AT THE
TEMPLE, THOUGH.

SFX: glance



I CAN'T
FORGET MY
PROMISE TO
RITO...

THIS IS
DANGEROUS...
I COULD DIE IF
I SCREW UP.



YOSHIDA,
I'M GOING
TO THE
BATH-
ROOM.



I CAN'T
FORGET MY
PROMISE TO
RITO...







THERE
SHE IS!



I'M
RUNNING
OUT OF
TIME!

I'M GETTING MORE
AND MORE
TRANSPARENT.



OH NO! I'M
ALMOST COM-
PLETELY GONE! I
HAVE LESS THAN
A MINUTE LEFT!



JUST A
LITTLE
MORE..!



slip

I FOUND
TERUKO-
CHAN!!

I FOUND
HER,
YOSHIDA
!!!



AHH...
AHH...



AAAAHHH
THANK YOU SO
MUCH, IT'S ALL
THANKS TO
YOU!



LUCKY,
WE ONLY GOT
A LIGHT
CONCUSSION.
WHAT A RELIEF.
HEL, YOSHIDA?!

I FOUND
HER,
YOSHIDA
!!



OH NO!
I'M LATE!

AHH



I GO
TO...



I'M
NARUKANE
GEMBOGOKU.

WHAT
SCHOOL
DO YOU
GO TO?



OH!
PLEASE,
TELL ME
YOUR NAME!



I'M YOUR
CLASSMATE
FROM THIS DAY
FORWARD!

FUURA
HIGH!
CLASS
1-B!



STEP



TEACHER'S ROOM



DID I
DROP IT
SOME-
WHERE?

HUH? AHH.



PLEASE
HAND ME
YOUR ID
BOOK.



CONCERNEDLY
FOR EXCUSE, BUT
AND MAKE HERE
FOR THE FIRST DAY
AND SOUND
SEARCH FOR



ARE YOU
EVEN CON-
SCIOUS OF THE
FACT THAT YOU
BELONG TO
THIS SCHOOL
NOW?!

NOT ONLY
WERE YOU LATE
ON YOUR FIRST
DAY, BUT YOU
ALSO LOST YOUR
ID BOOK!



AH!



HUH?

GRAB

YOU'RE THE
PRIDE OF OUR
SCHOOL!

EH?



UHM...THIS
STUDENT WAS
LATE, EVEN
THOUGH IT'S
HIS FIRST DAY
HERE, AND SO
I WAS
MERELY...



THERE
YOU
ARE!

AHH,
VICE PRIN-
CIPAL!



ONE OF THE
PEOPLE WHO WERE
AT THE SCENE
FOUND YOUR ID
BOOK AND
BROUGHT
IT HERE.



WELL, I DID
KINDA TELL
YOSHIDA...

YOU SAVED
A CHILD'S LIFE,
YET YOU
DIDN'T EVEN
STEP FOR-
WARD TO TAKE
CREDIT FOR
IT...



YES
SIR!

AH, THAT'S
RIGHT. TODAY'S
YOUR FIRST
OFFICIAL DAY OF
SCHOOL HERE.
DO YOUR BEST!



A-ARE
YOU
MAD?

UH, SORRY, I
DIDN'T MEANT TO
EMBARRASS YOU
OR ANYTHING,
KITO-SENSEI.

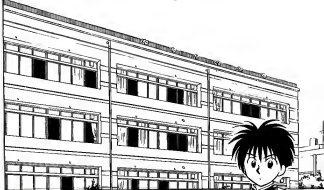


HISOKA RETURNS!



#7. I UNDERSTAND YOU!





— OKAY.

TRY NOT TO
MAKE YOUR
SELF-INTRODUC-
TION TOO LONG,
OTHERWISE WE'LL
LOSE TOO MUCH
PRECIOUS CLASS
TIME.

NAKURAKU-
KIN?

ANGEL, BE
JUSTIFIED TO
TAKE THINGS
OFF MY ME.

ANGEL'S TALKING TO
ANGEL, BUT SHE'S A
NEW MEMBER OF THE
ANGEL CLUB "NEW-
COMER"

THE
BELL'S
RINGING!

THAT'S IT,
THAT'S IT! IN
YOUR SEATS!

OH, THAT REMINDS
ME, THERE WAS ONE
STUDENT IN 1-B THAT
I DIDN'T GET ALONG
TOO WELL WITH...

clap

But

1-B

SFX: noise

sfx: rattle noise



IF HE'S DUMB
ENOUGH TO BE
LATE ON HIS
FIRST DAY AT A
NEW SCHOOL, I
DOUBT HE'S ANY-
THING SPECIAL.

noise

noise

hmpf

BUT, BUT,
THERE'S A
TRANSFER
STUDENT
COMING! AREN'T
YOU CURIOUS AS
TO WHAT KIND OF
GUY HE'LL BE?

SFX: clamor



THAT'S THE BOY
WHO WAS AT
HOSHINOBU-
DEN'S HOUSE
THE OTHER DAY!

ざわ
ざわ

HE'S
PRETTY
CUTE!

HEY, HE
LOOKS
PRETTY
WEAK.



SFX: silence



I'M
NARUKAMI
GENGOROU!





UH...LET'S
BE GOOD
FRIENDS,
EVERYONE!

WELL...I
GUESS
THERE'S NO
REASON TO GO
INTO SO MUCH
DETAIL!



UM...
MM...

MY
BIRTH-
DAY IS

I USED
TO GO TO
FULWA
HIGH!



HE'S THE
GUY THAT
KILLED
HASHIJIMA?

clamor

HASHIJIMA-
SENSEI?
YOU MEAN...

clamor



I HEARD
THAT
HASHIJIMA
SAVED HIM
WHEN HE WAS
DROWNING.

IN THE
TEACHER'S
ROOM,



HE
KILLED
HASHIJIMA!

ARE
YOU
BER-
QUIET?

WHY
WOULD YOU
LET HIM
TRANSFER
HERE?!



THEY'RE
AS
READY
AS
THEY
EVER
WERE.

RITO WON'T
BE ABLE TO
CALM THEM
DOWN ON
HER OWN.

BE
QUIET!

Q...QUIET
DOWN!

noise
sfx

SFX: noise



BE
QUIET!

SFX: quiet



RIGHT,
HONNDA-
SENNAI?

ISN'T IT
OBVIOUS? THE
DESK NEXT TO
MINE IS WIDE
OPEN!



BUT I
DON'T EVEN
KNOW
WHERE I'M
SITTING
YET...



SFX: slam

CLASS
SHOULD
HAVE
ALREADY
STARTED
BY NOW!

AND YOU!
FINISH YOUR
INTRODUCTION
AND GET INTO
YOUR SEAT!



THINK
NOTHING
OF IT. I AM
CLASS REP,
AFTER ALL.

YES...
THANK YOU
VERY MUCH,
TSUGUMI-
HARA-SAN.

SHE'S THE
ONE I COULD
NEVER REALLY
GET ALONG
WITH...

AS FAR AS
THIS CLASS'S
FOOD CHAIN
GOES, SHE'S
DOMINATING
THE TOP.

TSUGUMIHARA
CHINAMI...SHE
NEVER CEASED
TO AMAZE ME.







YOUR
TEXTBOOKS
YET, DO
YOU?



YOU
DON'T
HAVE

FLIP



DON'T
TALK TO ME
DURING
CLASS.

THIS IS A
BIG HELP.

TH...
THANKS.



HE'S
TALKING
ABOUT
SOMETHING
WITH
HOSHIZAKI-
SENSEI...



AH!



Arise
no road

Arise



I WAS
JUST ABOUT
TO GIVE HIM A
TOUR AROUND
THE SCHOOL,
TOO...

WHERE'D THE
TRANSFER GO?
HE DISAPPEARED
RIGHT WHEN HE
CLASS ENDED.



SFX: smack

SFX: whip





SFX noise





I
COLLECTED
ALL THE
HOME-
WORK.

OH,
GOOD
WORK!

HISSELF
TALKING
THOUGH.

(WHENEVER HE JUST
DOES SOMETHING THAT
AROUND AND AROUND
SHE STAYS AWAY!)



HE'S WEAK
TOWARD
THOSE
KINDA SOB
STORIES,
YOU KNOW.

APPARENTLY,
THE VICE
PRINCIPAL
HIMSELF
DECIDED THE
MATTER.



HUNT?



ARE YOU
TALKING ABOUT
THE STUDENT
WHO TRANS-
FERRED INTO
HASHIUMA-
SENSEI'S
CLASS?

FIRST TIME I
EVER SAW A TRANSFER
STUDENT WHO
REQUESTED HIS OWN
CLASS, THOUGH.

WHY WOULD
YOU THROW
YOURSELF RIGHT
INTO THE FIRE,
NARUKAMI
GENGOROUP?

WITHOUT THAT, HE
WOULD HAVE BEEN
FOREVER BULLIED
AS "THE GUY
WHO KILLED
HASHIUMA-
SENSEI"

IT WAS ONLY
PURE LUCK THAT
THE CLASS CAME
TO LIKE HIM BE-
CAUSE OF WHAT
HAPPENED WITH
YOSHIDA-KUN...

WHY
...?

DOES HE
ENJOY THIS
SORT OF
JARGON?





dīng dōng

WHEN, I'M
SO GLAD I
MANAGED TO
END THIS DAY
IN ONE PIECE...

IT SURE
WAS A
LONG DAY...



Yooooo!



OH YEAH...
BEFORE SHE
COMES...

RITO
SHOULD BE
HERE TO
FEED THE
CAT SOON.

IT'S
4:35...



SFX pop



AHH!

STEP

I GUESS I
HAVE TO WAIT A
NIGHT OR SO
FOR ALL MY
ENERGY TO BE
REPLENISHED.

HUH? IT'S
BEEN 4-7 HOURS
SINCE I HAD MY
OUT-OF-BODY
EXPERIENCE IN
THE MORNING,
BUT I'M STILL
TRANSPARENT!

WHAT
IS HE
LOOKING
DOWN
FOR?

WHAT'S HE
DOING BEHIND
THE SCHOOL?

GUESS
IT TAKES
LONGER TO
HEAL THAN
I THOUGHT.

SIGH

I'M
TIRED
— SIGH

WHY...
WHY
DOES HE
LOOK SO
SAD?

AH!

THIS GAVE HIM A
DEEP WOUND IN
HIS HEART, AND IT
STILL HAD YET TO
HEAL!

HE WAS
SAVED BY A
TEACHER'S
SACRIFICE...

"GUESS IT
TAKES LONGER
TO HEAL THAN
I THOUGHT! IS
RETURNING
ABSOLUTELY
IMPOSSIBLE
HEART!"

AND SO HE
CAME TO OUR
SCHOOL TO TRY
AND ATONE FOR
HIS SIN!

I GET IT
NOW!
HE CAN'T
FORGIVE
HIMSELF...



THEN, JUST AS
HASHIMURA-SENSEI
SAVED HIS LIFE, HE
SAVED YOSHIDA-
KUN'S SISTER'S LIFE!

HE WAS EVEN
CONTENT TO SUFFER
COLD TREATMENT
FROM HOSHIZAKI-
SENSEI, WHO WAS
ONCE HASHIMURA-
SENSEI'S STUDENT!

HE WAS
PREPARED
TO BE
SINGLED
OUT!

THAT'S
ALSO WHY
HE INSISTED
ON JOINING
CLASS 1-B!



SFX: whip



GUESS
ANIMALS
CAN SEE
PEOPLE EVEN
WHEN
THEY'RE OUT
OF THESE
BODIES.

SO YOU
CAN SEE
ME, HUH?

HHMM
—

SFX: grip

SIGH











CHEER
UP!!



N I S O K A R E T U R N S !



#8. TEAR-STAINED CABBAGE ROLLS



Patent Town Paper Office

THE
POST
OFFICE!

HERE
WE ARE!



SFX: dash



ding dong



SFX yay



SFX noise



RITO'S THE ONE I WANT!

HONESTLY,
THIS IS
A HUGE
PROBLEM!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT
MISUNDERSTANDING
STARTED THIS, BUT IT
SEEMS THAT
TOUGUMIHARA
WAS A GELISH ON
ME NOW...





SPX: wham flutter



WHEN I WAS A TEENAGER,
I WAS REALLY INTO MYSELF
A LOT OF TIMES I GUESSED
I WAS GOING TO BE A
FUTURE LEADER TO BE HONEST
A FUTURE LEADER

WHEN I WAS A TEENAGER
I WAS REALLY INTO MYSELF
A LOT OF TIMES I GUESSED
I WAS GOING TO BE A
FUTURE LEADER TO BE HONEST
A FUTURE LEADER

THAT LYING OLD
PART! HE TOLD ME
NO ONE ELSE
WOULD BE ABLE
TO SEE ME!

DID SHE SEE
ME HAVING
AN OUT-OF-
BODY
EXPERIENCE?!

DON'T I
DIE IF
SOMEONE
FINDS OUT
ABOUT
ME?

WHO
YOU
REALLY
ARE.

I
KNOW

I LOVE
HOW YOU DO
THINGS LIKE
TAT.

OH, SO
THAT'S
WHAT
YOU
MEANT...

I
SAW
YOU.

YESTERDAY,
YOU CARRIED
AN OLD LADY
TO THE POST
OFFICE, DIDN'T
YOU?

LETTING THIS GO
ON ANY LONGER
WILL ONLY HURT
TSUGUMIHARA
MORE IN THE
END!

I ALREADY
HAVE RITO!

OH NO...I'M
GOING TO HAVE
TO HURRY UP
AND CUT THIS
OFF WHILE I STILL
CAN, OR TSUGU-
MIHARA'S JUST
GOING TO GET
MORE AND MORE
PASSIONATE...



AH WELL,
 HE JUST
 HATES TO
 HANG OUT
 WITH ME.



BUT THEN
 SOMETHING
 HAPPENED
 THAT TOOK
 HIM AWAY
 FROM ME.

WHAT? THE
 SAME OLD
 SAME OLD
 SAME OLD
 SAME OLD
 SAME OLD.



TODAY
 WAS
 A PRETTY
 QUIET DAY.

I CAN'T
 BELIEVE
 IT'S
 ALREADY
 THIS LATE.



AH WELL, I'M
 NOT GOING
 ANYWHERE
 TOMORROW
 ANYWAY.

DID IT
 START
 RAIN-
 ING?

SATURDAY
 NIGHT

I DON'T REALLY
 WANT HER STICK-
 ING AROUND ME,
 BUT I CAN'T MOVE
 THINGS FORWARD
 UNLESS SHE'S
 HERE...

FOR THE PAST
 FEW DAYS, I'VE
 BEEN GOING
 PLACES WITH
 TSUGUMIHARA
 AFTER SCHOOL.



KYAAA!

ON
 MONDAY,
 FOR SURE!

I'M GOING TO
 HAVE TO CLEAN
 THINGS UP AS
 SOON AS I
 GET THE
 CHANCE.





MAN,
AM I
LAZY!

MAYBE IT'S
A BURGLAR?
NOT LIKE
THERE'S
ANYTHING
TO STEAL
IN OUR
HOUSE...

THAT
CAME
FROM OUT
FRONT.

THESE
PEOPLE ARE
TAKING CARE
OF ME, SO
THE LEAST I
CAN DO IS
PROTECT
THEIR
HOUSE.

GUESS
I'LL GO
CHECK.



TSUGU-
MIHARA!









MADE
CABBAGE
ROLLS!



C...CABBAGE
ROLLS?



YEAH?
?



HM?

OH,
ABOUT
THAT...



AND
YOU
KNOW
WHAT?



I'M BETTER
AT MAKING
SOUP THAN I
AM AT MAKING
LUNCHES.

YEAH!
REMEMBER
WHAT I
TOLD YOU?

I'M
SERIOUS!

THEY COULD
EASILY FIT INTO
THE TOP THREE
BEST DISHES I'VE
EVER COOKED!

CALL ME
THE IRON
CHEF!



THE CABBAGE
ROLLS I MADE
TODAY AT MY
UNCLE'S
HOUSE WERE
TRULY
PERFECT!

SO I
HOPPED
IN A TAXI!



I THOUGHT I'D
REGRET IT FOR
THE REST OF MY
LIFE IF YOU DIDN'T
TASTE THEM.

THEY WERE
JUST SO GOOD, I
HAD TO LET YOU
TRY SOME.



SFX: fresh

WELL, IT'S
ONLY IS
MORE KILLO-
METERS...

I RAN OUT OF
MONEY, THOUGH,
SO I GOT OUT AND
WALKED THE REST
OF THE WAY.



I MADE
IT...

THAT
SLOWED
ME DOWN
A BIT.

HIVE

THEN IT
STARTED
RAINING
HARD!



SFX: splash





SFX: smack



SFX: tip





SFX: thunk



SFX: splat





OH YEAH,
LET ME TAKE
OFF THE
COAT!



HEAT
THEM UP
AND EAT
THEM IF
YOU LIKE!

I GUESS
I'LL JUST
LEAVE THE
POT HERE.



*SHE WRAPPED
HER OWN COAT
AROUND THE POT,
EVEN THOUGH IT
WAS RAINING?!*



AND I
WANTED
TO TRY AND
KEEP THEM
WARM...
THAT DIDN'T
WORK TOO
WELL,
THOUGH...

I THOUGHT
THE RAIN
MIGHT
THIN OUT
THE FLAVOR,



SFX: rattle



AHH-
HH!



AH.



L/FM
FINE!

HEY! YOU
MUST BE SO
COLD! YOU'RE
SHIVERING!



SFX: clang



WHAT WAS I
THINKING...

HOW
COULD I
BE SO
STUPID?!

I'LL
CLEAN UP
RIGHT
AWAY!

I'M
SORRY!
I'M
SORRY!

TSUGU-
MINARA!

I CAN'T
BELIEVE
THAT I,
THE CLASS
REP,
WOULD DO
SOME-
THING LIKE
THIS...

I'M
REALLY
SORRY.

I'M
SORRY FOR
ALL THE
COMMOTION.

HOW
COULD
I GET SO
WORRIED UP
ALL ON MY
OWN LIKE
THIS?

splat

SIFX splat





SFX: munch



SFX: lift



THEY
SURE
ARE
COLD,
BUT...

THEY'RE
GOOD!

RED WAIN



SFX: munch



SFX: waaaah



HISOKA RETURNS!





SFX: slip



#9. WHAT I CAN DO

STAY
WITH
ME!

TSUGUMIHARA!



MONDAY

ding dong

TSUGUMI-
HARA-SAN
HAS A
COLD...

TODAY,
TSUGUMI-HARA-
SAN AND ITAO-
KUN ARE ABSENT,
I SEE.

WHAT
ABOUT
ITAO-KUN?

WELL, SHE
DID WALK 15
KILOMETERS IN
COLD RAIN
WITHOUT AN
UMBRELLA, SO
IT DOESN'T
SURPRISE ME.

TSUGUMIHARA'S BEEN
IN BED WITH A FEVER
EVER SINCE THAT
NIGHT.

SHE'S
SERIOUS
ABOUT
THIS...

I LOVE HOW
YOU DO
THINGS
LIKE THAT!



I'M SERIOUS
ABOUT RITO
TOO!

AND THAT'S EXACTLY
WHY I CAN'T SCREW
AROUND WITH THIS
ANY LONGER!



I GUESS I'LL
JUST HAVE
TO WAIT
UNTIL SHE
RECOVERS.

I NEED TO TALK TO HER AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE, BUT SHE'S
IN NO CONDITION TO LISTEN
RIGHT NOW.



AFTER SCHOOL

SHE PROBABLY
THINKS WE'RE
GOING OUT, AND
MUST NOT BE
TOO HAPPY
ABOUT IT...

I HATE DOING STUFF
BEHIND TSUGUMIHARA'S
BACK WHILE SHE'S
RESTING, BUT I SHOULD
TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS
TIME TO HAVE A NICE CALM
CHAT WITH RITO...





YES, I WAS
CERTAINLY
SURPRISED...TO SEE
SOMETHING LIKE
THAT OUT OF THE
BLUE.

WHY
WOULD
I BE ANGRY
ABOUT SOME-
THING
LIKE THAT?



S...SO YOU'RE
NOT ANGRY,
RITO-SENSEI?



THAT'S
NOT WHAT
I'M TALKING
ABOUT!

BUT
BOY-GIRL
RELATION-
SHIPS AREN'T
PROHIBITED AT
OUR SCHOOL.



WH-
WHAT I
MEAN
IS...







NOW THAT I
THINK ABOUT IT,
PERHAPS
I CAN TALK
TO HIM

[illegible]

**STUDY OF
COMPARISON
OF
TECHNIQUES
FOR
TEACHING**



1. How many people
 2. How many people
 3. How many people
 4. How many people
 5. How many people

STAFF
BOARD OF
MANAGEMENT
THE
ASSOCIATION

HIGH
SCHOOLERS
DON'T HAVE
ECONOMIC
POWER, THEY
DON'T HAVE
DRIVER'S
LICENSES...
THEY'VE GOT
NOTHING!

I DON'T BELIEVE THIS.



**THIS IS
BAD! I HAVE
TO DO
SOMETHING!**





NOW, FOR THE FIRST TIME... I REALIZED JUST HOW POWERLESS GENGOROU REALLY IS...

SHE PUSHED NOT ONLY HERSELF, BUT HER BODY AS WELL, AS FAR AS SHE COULD WITHIN HER MEANS.

I SHOULD LEARN FROM TOUGUMI-HARA!





YOU SURE
KNOW HOW
TO PUT 'EM
DOWN,
SENSEI!

ONE TIME,
WHEN I WENT TO
VISIT THE FAMILY,
I FOUND THE GUY
IN A TOTAL
DRUNKEN
FRENZY.

AH
WELL... AT
LEAST I
GET FREE
BEER.



HE'S ALSO
PRESIDENT
OF THE
PTA...

I FEEL BAD FOR
ITAG... HIS OLD
MAN'S REALLY A
VICIOUS DRINKER.



BUT I'M
PRETTY SURE
THEY'RE
SEPARATED
NOW...

LUCKILY, HIS WIFE
CAME HOME SOON
AFTER THAT AND I
ESCAPED WITHOUT
ANY TROUBLE...

SFX: dash



RYO JUST BARELY
BECAME THEIR NEW
TEACHER, SO SHE
PROBABLY ISN'T
EXPECTING A
THING!

GFXC slip



I KNOW,
I'LL JUST
SLIP IN!



PLEASE, I
INSIST, JUST
HONOR ME BY
JOINING ME FOR
A SINGLE
DRINK!

NOW,
NOW,
DON'T BE
LIKE THAT!

N-NO, I CAN'T!
I JUST CAME TO
CHECK UP ON
MY STUDENT, I
COULDN'T
POSSIBLY
DRINK...

I
KNEW
IT...



OTO...I
HOPE HE
ISN'T GIVING
YOU ANY
TROUBLE...

I CAN'T
JUST BARGE
IN UNTIL I
KNOW WHAT'S
GOING ON



NONE OF THEM
KNOW HOW TO
HAVE A PROPER
CONVERSATION
WITH PARENTS!

THIS IS
WHY I CAN'T
STAND
FEMALE
TEACHERS...



ONCE I'M
FINISHED, I
WILL LEAVE
AT ONCE.

I SIMPLY
CAME TO
CHECK UP ON
HAO-KUN.



HE'S COMPLAINING
HER WITH ME!

OH
NO!



HA...
HASHIJIMA-
DENDAI?

THE TEACHER
BEFORE YOU WAS
WAY BETTER, YOU
KNOW THAT?!



AHHH!

KEEP TALK-
ING LIKE
THAT, AND
YOU'LL NEVER
GET MARRIED!

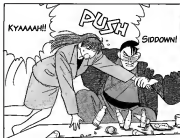


THAT IS NOT
WHAT I CAME
HERE TO DO!



BUT THE
LEAST YOU
CAN DO IS
POUR MINE!

FINE!
YOU DON'T
WANNA
DRINK, YOU
DON'T HAVE
TO DRINK!











I CAN AT
LEAST SACRIFICE
MYSELF TO
PROTECT THE
GIRL I LIKE

BUT.



WAAAAHAHA-
HAHA! WELL
SAID, BOY! FINE
THEN, I'LL GIVE
YOU EXACTLY
WHAT YOU
WANT!



SFX: splash





YOU MAY WORRY ABOUT YOUR SON BECAUSE HIS NEW TEACHER'S A WOMAN, BUT I PROMISE TO DO MY BEST.



OH, IT'S ALRIGHT.

NOW APOLOGIZE!



NARUKAMI-KUN...



THEN YOU MUST BE A GOOD TEACHER.

IF YOUR OWN STUDENT IS WILLING TO SACRIFICE HIMSELF FOR YOU,



YES, I'M VERY SORRY FOR HOW RUDE I WAS EARLIER!

SHE SOUNDS LIKE A GREAT TEACHER TO ME!

SFX: thud



OH MY.

NARUKAMI-KUN!

HUH?!



FOR A MINUTE THERE, I WAS REALLY WORRIED.

Aw, I'm so silly...

Check out our new
Manga Club!
Available now!
Only \$9.99!
Check it out!

Now!
Manga Club!
Available now!
Only \$9.99!
Check it out!



H-HEY,
NARUKAMI-
KUN....!

THIS HURTS....

HUG

I'M GOING
TO PROTECT
YOU, RITO!!



RITOOOO!
I'M GOING
TO PROTECT
YOU, GOT
IT?!



I'M
GONNA
PROTECT
YOU...

OKAY,
OKAY!



HISOKA RETURNS!



YOU CAN'T
EVEN DO
THIS ON
YOUR
OWN?

HASHIUMA-
SENSEL...



AW,
COME
ON, RITO.



I DREAMED
ABOUT YOU
AGAIN...

#10. JUST LIKE A CHILD...





TOMORROW WE GET A DAY OFF FOR FOUNDING DAY, SO IT SHOULD BE A GOOD CHANCE FOR ME TO GET A CHANGE OF FACE.

AND BESIDES, THE DREAM HAD GOTTEN ME A BIT DEPRESSED ABOUT HASHIUMA-SENSEI AGAIN, SO THIS WAS GOOD TIMING.

THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH A TEACHER AND STUDENT GOING TOGETHER TO A FOSSIL EXHIBIT. I WENT TOGETHER WITH HASHIUMA-SENSEI ONCE, AND I OWE GENGORO FOR HELPING ME OUT AT ITAD-KUN'S HOUSE.



IT WAS
PRETTY
TERRIBLE...
REMEMBER IN
THE COURSE
AS A RESULT...





SFX: fassash





SFX: slip



SFX: wham

SFX: dash

SFX: roll





YOUR BONE SEEMS FINE. YOU MUST HAVE SPRAINED IT.

YOU CAN'T GO ALL THE WAY TO THE DOWN NOW, AND IT'LL BE TOUGH TO TRY AND MAKE IT BACK TO THE CAR.



RITO!



Owww

...



IT'S NOT FAR, I CAN WALK!



YOU'RE GOING TO CATCH A COLD. LET ME CARRY YOU.



I THINK I'M STARTING TO SEE GHOSTS. LET'S HURRY.



I SEE A SMALL HUT OVER THERE.



WHAT ARE YOU DOING SO STUPIDLY FAST?



AAAAH!



LET'S USE IT TO GET SOME SHELTER.



USE MY SHOULDER.



I USED TO HURT MYSELF A LOT, SO I LEARNED HOW TO TIE BANDAGES ON MY OWN.

I NEVER THOUGHT OF USING MY EXTRA STOCKING LIKE THAT.

THANK YOU, YOU DID AN EXCELLENT JOB.

THERE, THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH FIRST AID FOR NOW.



YOU CAN TAKE OFF YOUR WET CLOTHES TOO IF YOU WANT, YOU KNOW.



INSIDE HERE, I'LL BE FINE EVEN IF I TAKE OFF MY SHIRT. IT GOT WET, ANYWAY.

HEY, AREN'T YOU COLD?



THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NOTHING HERE.

LOOKS LIKE THIS HUT'S STILL BEING BUILT.



IT MAKES
ME FEEL
JUST LIKE A
CHILD...I'M
NOTHING
BUT TALK!

HIS MUCH
MORE
MATURE IN
THAT
REGARD.

HIS
TRUSTWORTHY...
NONE OF MY
WISDOM IS
USEFUL IN TIMES
LIKE THESE...

IT REALLY
SEEMS LIKE
HE CAN
SURVIVE ON
HIS OWN.

HIS
SURPRISINGLY
RESPONSIBLE...



IT REMINDS ME
OF THE COUNTRIES
ACROSS THE
MOUNTAIN
RANGE.







SENSEI...



HUH?



HE'S
GONE...



NAKUKAMI-
KUN...

WHEN
DID I FALL
ASLEEP?



HE WENT
OUTSIDE WITH
NOTHING BUT
A T-SHIRT
ON?

HE LEFT
HIS COAT
BEHIND.

HE'LL
CATCH A
COLD FOR
SURE LIKE
THAT!



SFX: creak



SFX: whoooooosh





I MADE
THE CALL
AND FIXED
THE CAR.

TO THE
FOOT
OF THE
MOUNTAIN.

WH-
WHERE
DID HE
GO?



YOU WON'T BE
ABLE TO DRIVE
VERY WELL WITH
YOUR LEG LIKE
THAT, SO I ALSO
CALLED A
REPLACEMENT
DRIVER
COMPANY.

WE SHOULD
JUST USE
SOME METHOD
OF PUBLIC
TRANSPORTA-
TION TO GET
HOME TODAY.



OH, ARE
YOU AWAKE
NOW,
RITO-
SENSEI?

IT STOPPED
RAINING. THE
EVENING SUN
LOOKS
REALLY
PRETTY.



SOME
TEACHER
I AM.

YOU'VE DONE
SO MUCH FOR
ME, AND I CAN'T
DO ANYTHING.
I'M ALL TALK...



HOW CAN
YOU BE SO
CAPABLE?



SFX: grab SFX: throb



SFX: pitter patter



NO
TEACHER IS
PERFECT.









HE MUST
HAVE BEEN
SO COLD...



TOUCH



THAT'S
IT!
HOLD
ON
TIGHT.



IN THE
RAIN...

HUG



IT SEEMS
LIKE RITO'S
BEING MORE
FRANK THAN
USUAL...

AM I
FEELING
NORMAL...



OK.
BUT...



HISOKA RETURNS!

#11. JEALOUSY...





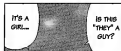
YES,
THANK YOU!
I'M REALLY
FINE NOW.

ARE YOU
SURE YOU'LL
BE ALRIGHT,
RTO-
SENSEI?



HUH?!

I PROMISED
SOMEONE I'D
MEET THEM
HERE.



IT'S A
GIRL...

IS THIS
"THEY" A
GUY?



AH...

OH.



LATER!



THEY WENT TO WORK
AT A FINANCIAL
INSTITUTION OVERSEAS,
AND RECENTLY
RETURNED TO
JAPAN.

AN OLD
CLASSMATE
FROM MY
HIGH SCHOOL
YEARS.



THEY WERE
NICE ENOUGH
TO CALL ME
UP, SO I
THOUGHT THE
LEAST I
COULD WAS
COME OUT TO
MEET THEM.



WH...
WHO?



SFX: stare



SFX: rattle



SFX: cough



I WAS
WATCHING
YOU THROUGH
THE WINDOW.

BUHEH



I NEVER
THOUGHT YOU'D
DO SOMETHING
LIKE THAT,
THOUGH.



HE WAS JUST
CARRYING MY
THINGS FOR
ME SINCE I
SPRAINED MY
ANKLE!

H-HE...
NARUKAMI-
KUN IS...



HE'S
PRETTY
CUTE,
HUH?



SFX: sniff

SFX: throb

SFX: rattle

SORRY...I
FORGOT
HOW
SERIOUS
YOU ARE.

P-PLEASE
DON'T
TEASE ME
RIGHT
NOW...



MINARU-
CHAN!

REALLY? BUT WHEN
YOU SAW HIM OFF,
YOUR FACE DIDN'T
LOOK LIKE THE FACE
OF A TEACHER
SAYING GOODBYE
TO A STUDENT.





TO WHAT KIND
OF PERSON?
DID YOU MEET
HIM AT WORK?

YEAH.

HUH? YOU'RE
GETTING MARRIED.
MIHARU-CHAN?



WOW, YOU HAD
SOMEONE LIKE
THAT?
I work
with him...

SURPRISED
?



WHAT?!

HE'S THREE
YEARS
YOUNGER
THAN ME.
STILL IN
UNIVERSITY.



UP UNTIL RECENTLY, I
DIDN'T THINK OF HIM
AS ANYTHING MORE
THAN A CUTE LITTLE
JUNIOR, SO I DIDN'T
EVEN CONSIDER HIM
AS A ROMANTIC
INTEREST.

HE'S A JUNIOR OF
MINE FROM THE
THEATER CLUB. WE
REALLY HIT IT OFF
WELL, SO WE
STARTED
EXCHANGING
LETTERS.





I IMMEDIATELY
QUIT MY JOB
AND CAME
HOME, AND
THEN
PROPOSED
TO HIM!

ONCE I
REALIZED HOW I
FELT, THERE
WAS NOTHING
TO IT. I DIDN'T
WASTE ANY
TIME.



THAT MEANS
YOU HAVE
FEELINGS
FOR HIM!

IF A
GUY'S
MAKING
YOU
JEALOUS



YEAH! AND
PLEASE
INVITE ME
TO YOUR
WEDDING.

I'LL CALL
YOU AGAIN
LATER,
OK?

AS THAT
HOW LONG
REALLY
GOOD?



Abstract

100



THE NEXT DAY



HORIGAKI
SENSEI

1994





SFX: noise





Y-YOU
SEE...

WELL...!
I GUESS I
HAVE TO
EXPLAIN
MYSELF
NOW.



WHY DID YOU
HAVE TO
BORROW
PAJAMAS FROM
NARUKAMI-KUN,
CLASS REP?!

WHAT?!
ARE YOU
KIDDING
ME?!



I GOT REALLY
WET IN THE RAIN
AND GOT A
FEVER, SO I
COLLAPSED RIGHT
ON THE SPOT.

LAST WEEK, ON
SATURDAY, I
WENT TO
NARUKAMI-
KUN'S HOUSE
WITHOUT PRIOR
NOTICE.



WHAT?
YOU
STAYED
OVER?!

squeal

SO I STAYED
OVER
NARUKAMI-
KUN'S HOUSE
THAT NIGHT.





TSUGU-
MINARA!

MAKING
KUN!

JUST TO SAY
IT'S NOT THE WAY
TO GET THE GIRL
YOU WANT!
IT'S THE WAY
TO GET THE GIRL
YOU WANT!

THE GIRL IS
NOT THE GIRL
YOU WANT!
IT'S THE GIRL
YOU WANT!



WE NEED
TO GET TO
HER!
HOURS WILL
ONLY GET
WORSE!

THE OTHER
KIDS ARE ONLY
ENCOURAGING
HER EVEN
MORE!



Umm...
Tsugumina...

I KNOW WE
HAVEN'T DONE
ANYTHING
WRONG!

IT'S ALRIGHT!
I DON'T CARE
WHAT PEOPLE
THINK OF US!



OK!

COME
OVER
HERE.

OH NO! IT LOOKS
LIKE I WON'T BE
ABLE TO TAKE MY
TIME WITH THIS
EITHER.



LOOK AT
THAT
YOUTHFUL
PASSION!

HEY, THE
LOVERBOYS
ARE
TOGETHER
AGAIN!

SHUT UP
ALREADY!



SFX: pitter patter





SFX: jerk



SFX: grab



Meeting Room





HOLD ON!



I'LL TELL NARUKAMI-KUN HE CAN LEAVE TOO.

SO, I CAN GO NOW?!



SEEMS LIKE MOST OF THE RUMORS I HEARD WERE JUST EXAGGERATIONS.

I'VE GOT A GENERAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE SITUATION NOW.

SFX: rattle



WAIT A MINUTE!!



I THINK THIS STEMS FROM THE FACT THAT YOU ALWAYS OBLIGE YOURSELF TO NARUKAMI-KUN TO AN UNNATURAL DEGREE WHENEVER PEOPLE ARE WATCHING.

YOU SHOULD BE MORE CAREFUL.



THE RUMORS MAY HAVE BEEN EXAGGERATED, BUT YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY... "WHERE THERE'S SMOKE, THERE'S FIRE."



IT ISN'T A RUMOR OR AN EXAGGERATION!!



THE FACT THAT I LIKE NARUKAMI-KUN IS THE TRUTH!!



I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG! TRYING TO HIDE THINGS AND SNEAK AROUND WOULD BE EVEN WORSE, WOULDN'T IT?!



SOME-
THING'S
WRONG
WITH YOU,
HOSHIZAKI-
SENSEI!

I DON'T NEED
YOU TO TRY
AND TEACH ME
HOW TO GO OUT
WITH A BOY!



THERE
ARE A LOT OF
STUDENTS OUT
THERE WHO ARE
GOING TO
TRY AND
EXAGGERATE
THINGS FOR
FUN!

B-BUT,
TSUGUMI-
HARA-
SAN...



YOU'VE OVER-
STEPPED YOUR
BOUNDS AS
OUR HOME-
ROOM
TEACHER!

WHAT ARE YOU
TRYING TO DO,
BREAK US
APART?!



B-BUT I'M
JUST
TRYING TO
HELP MY
STUDENT...!



IT ALMOST
SEEMS LIKE
YOU'RE
JEALOUS
OF US!





SFX: bam



SFX: throb





SFX: pitter pitter



I LIKE...
NARUKAMI-
KUN...?

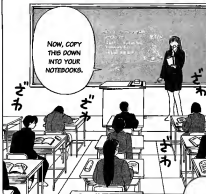




MISOKA RETURNS!

#12. I NEED TO BE STRONG!!





SFX: noise



I'M A
TEACHER! I
NEED TO BE
STRONG!

I CAN'T BELIEVE
I'M THINKING
ABOUT THESE
THINGS... I'M
LETTING
NARUKAMI-
KUN'S ACTIONS
INFLUENCE ME
TOO MUCH.

I'M A TEACHER! I CAN'T BE
FEELING ANYTHING
SPECIAL ABOUT A SINGLE
STUDENT! IT'S NOT
ALLOWED!



SFX: clamor



SFX: clamor



ding dong





IT HASN'T EVEN
BEEN HALF A
YEAR SINCE
HASHIMA-
SENSEI PASSED
AWAY!

NARUKAMI-KUN,
AND NOW
NOZAKA-
SENSEI... WHY
CAN'T THEY JUST
LET ME BE?



I NEED
TO BE
STRONG!

I'M REALLY
OUT OF IT
TODAY.

OH NO, I
FORGOT THE
CHALK
BOX IN THE
CLASSROOM.



TSUGU-
MIHARA!

HAHAHAHA-
HAHAHA-
HAHAHA!

PFFT!

I-B









THAT
MAKES
ME SO
HAPPY!

REALLY,
NARUKAMI-
KUN?



WELL, OF
COURSE, IT'D
BE LIKE.



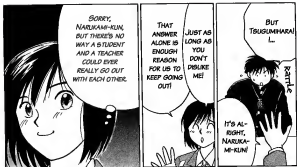
I SHOULD
HAVE
KNOWN...

HE REALLY
DOES LIKE
TOUGUMINAKI-
SAN, AFTER ALL



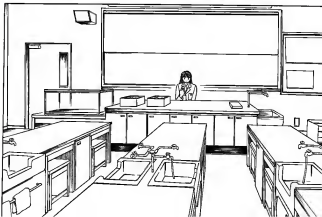
Oh...





SFX: Mmmmm...







SFX: rattle

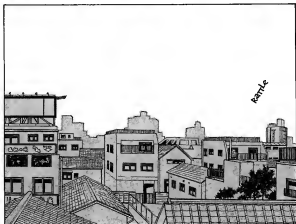




!!

CLANG







SFX: fassah

SFX: rattle plop



SFX: splash



SFX: splash

SFX: faahh



SFX: grab



SFX: splash



IT DIDN'T SOUND LIKE
YOU AT ALL, RITO-
SENSEI! ESPECIALLY
ALL THAT ABOUT ME
AND TSUGUMIHARA
GOING ON A DATE...

WHY DO YOU WANT TO
AVOID ME SO BADLY
THAT YOU WOULD
EVEN LIE TO ME?! I
KNEW THERE WAS
SOMETHING WEIRD
ABOUT THE WAY YOU
SAID THAT!



YOU
MEAN...
AFTER
SCHOOL?!



I HEARD YOU
TALKING TO
TSUGUMIHARA-
SAN IN THE
CLASSROOM.

WHAT
HAPPENED?



YOU PROBABLY
ONLY LISTENED
TO ONE PART
OF IT AND THEN
MISCONSTRUED
IT, DIDN'T
YOU?!



THEN YOU MISUN-
DERSTOOD THINGS!
I WAS TALKING TO
TSUGUMIHARA
ABOUT HOW I HAVE
A CRUSH ON YOU!



S...
STOP
IT!



YOU ALREADY
KNOW HOW I FEEL,
RITO-SENSEI!

I CAN'T
BELIEVE YOU'D
SAY SUCH
SPITEFUL THINGS
JUST BECAUSE OF
SOMETHING LIKE
THAT! THIS ISN'T
LIKE YOU!



BUT...
WHAT AM I
SUPPOSED TO
DO ABOUT
IT?!

I KNOW
WHAT YOU'RE
TRYING TO
SAY!



I'M A PERSON
WHO MAKES THE
QUESTIONS FOR
THE TESTS YOU TAKE,
CORRECTS THEM, AND
JUDGES YOU ALL
WITH A FAIR
EYE!

I CAN'T
JUST FOCUS ON
ONE STUDENT
AND BE EXTRA
CONSIDERATE TO HIM!

I'M IN A
DIFFERENT
POSITION THAN
YOU!

I'M A
TEACHER!



WITH
ANOTHER
HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENT LIKE
YOURSELF!

IF YOU WANT TO EAT
LUNCH TOGETHER, GO
SEE MOVIES
TOGETHER, AND
THINGS LIKE THAT,
THEN JUST
DO THEM WITH
TSUGUMIHARA-SAN!

I CAN'T TREAT
YOU LIKE
TSUGUMIHARA-
SAN DOES!

BECAUSE EVEN
IF I WANTED
TO...I CAN'T!



L...LET
ME GO!



SFX: splash





RITO...



MISOKA RETURNS!



#13. I WANT TO BE ALONE...



SFX: pop



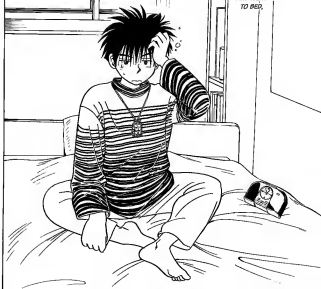
It's
ALREADY
FAST
NOON...



#13. I WANT TO BE ALONE...

I THINK IT HAD AL-
READY GOTTEN
BRIGHT OUTSIDE...

BY THE TIME
I FINISHED
BROODING
AND WENT
TO BED,



WITH ANOTHER
HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENT LIKE
YOU WANT IT

IF YOU WANT TO EAT
LUNCH TOGETHER, GO SEE
MOVIES TOGETHER, AND
THINGS LIKE THAT, THEN
JUST DO THEM WITH
TAKUJIMURA-SAN!

[illegible]

संस्थापक अध्यक्ष
प्रधानाचार्य
उपाध्यक्ष
सचिव
अध्यापक



SPRING
BREAK
THAT
REMINDS
ME.

STILL,
THOUGH, I
SLEPT WAY
TOO MUCH.

THIS IS A
TERRIBLE
WAY TO
START OFF
MY SPRING
BREAK.





AND
TAKE
CARE OF
YOU
THERE.

I PROMISED
RITO THAT OVER
THE BREAK, I'D
TAKE YOU TO
MY HOUSE



MEOW



IF SHE
LETS ME
SEE HER,
THAT IS.

IT'LL LET ME
CHECK UP ON
HOW SHE'S
DOING TOO.

I'M SURE SHE
REMEMBERS, BUT I
GUESS I'D BETTER
STOP BY JUST TO
LET HER KNOW.

SFX: ding dong



COMING!

HOSHIZAKI



RITO-
SENSEI
WENT ON
A TRIP?!

RITO
...
ER,

HUH
?!



JUDGING FROM HOW SHE
WAS ACTING YESTERDAY,
HER CURRENT STATE OF
MIND ISN'T EXACTLY STABLE.
I HOPE SHE DIDN'T COME
TO ANOTHER CRAZY
CONCLUSION...

SHE WANTED
TO BE ALONE
SO THAT SHE
COULD GET
HER
THOUGHTS
TOGETHER?
RITO...



I THINK
SHE SAID
SHE WAS
GOING TO
KYOTO.

SHE SAID SHE
WANTED TO BE
ALONE SO THAT
SHE COULD GET
HER THOUGHTS
TOGETHER.

YES.

SFX: hop



HASHI-
JIMA-
SENSEI...
I'M GOING
TO RELINQUISH
WITH YOU
NOW.

NOBITENGO



ANALOG
REWARD
MECHANISM-
GONE.

THE
MIND-
SET-UP
WAS FOR
OVER 100
YEARS.

BUT THEN AGAIN...
NO...I'M OVER-THINKING THINGS...

SHE'S PROBABLY NEVER HAD TO WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE, SO WHO KNOWS HOW FAR IT'LL PUSH HER!

NOOOOOOOO! I DOUBT IT'LL ACTUALLY COME TO THAT, BUT I ALSO KNOW HOW STUBBORN ROTO CAN BE...



IT'S A SURPRISINGLY SPONTANEOUS DECISION FOR HER.

SHE SAID SHE'D JUST CALL ME WHEN SHE GOT THERE.

THAT'S THE THING, SHE HADN'T DECIDED ON ANY CERTAIN PLACE.



CAN YOU TELL ME THE NAME OF HER HOTEL OR THE PHONE NUMBER?

D-DO YOU KNOW WHERE SHE WENT? OR WHERE SHE'S STAYING?



WHAT A HAPPY-GO-LUCKY PERSON...

Wowwww

BUT I THOUGHT A CAPRICIOUS TRIP LIKE THAT MIGHT BE GOOD FOR HER.





SFX: screech



WOAH!

MAYBE I
SHOULD GO TO
MY HOUSE AND
GET ON MY
BIKE? WOULD
THAT BE THE
SMARTER
DECISION?



OH NO! IT'S 2:45
RIGHT NOW... WILL
I BE ABLE TO
MAKE IT? THIS IS
GOING TO BE
REALLY CLOSE!



AAAAH,
NARUKAMI-KUN!
PERFECT TIMING!

YOSHIDA!

WATCH
OUT—

SFX: hehe hehe hehe



N-N-UMMM,
YOSHIDA, I'M
REALLY SORRY,
BUT I DON'T
HAVE TIME FOR
THAT RIGHT
NOW.

I WAS
JUST GOING
TO STOP BY
YOUR HOUSE.

WANNA
PLAY
SOCCER?

HEHE HEHE



P-PLEASE!
LET ME BORROW YOUR
BICYCLE! AND DON'T ASK
ME ANYTHING ABOUT IT!



YO...YO-
SHIDA!

?



IF I
PEDAL
FAST
ENOUGH I
SHOULD
BE ABLE
TO MAKE
IT!

WHAT
A MIR-
ACLE!



I'LL LEAVE
IT IN
FRONT OF
THE
STATION!



UH-H, I
DON'T
MIND, I
GUESS.



AHH...ALRIGHT,
WHATEVER YOU SAY,
NARUKAMI-KUN!



AH!



AH-
HH!



Grab

TH-THANK
YOU,
YOSHIDA! I
OWE YOU
ONE!



SFX: hisses



SFX: hop



HANG
ON
TIGHT!

TIME TO
BURN
SOME
RUBBER!



SFX whoosh



SFX: dash





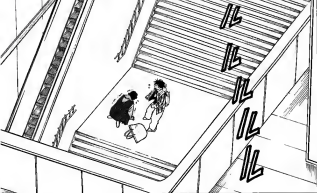
SFX: grab



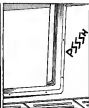
.....
MY
HUSBAND WAS
SUPPOSED TO
COME WITH
ME, BUT...

I WAS...JUST
ABOUT TO GO TO
MY PARENTS'
HOUSE AND AND
PREPARE TO GIVE
BIRTH TO MY
BABY, BUT NOW,
ALL OF A
SUDDEN...

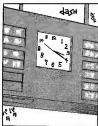
HE GOT
CALLED IN TO
WORK...SO I
CAME HERE
BY MYSELF...



SFX: horik



SFX: dash







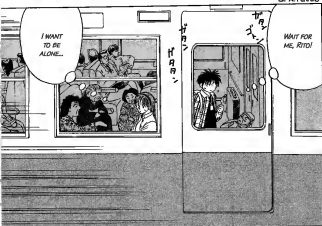
SFX: rattle



SFX: whoosh



SFX: rattle





HISOKA RETURNS!



IS THIS
YOUR FIRST
TIME IN
KYOTO?

HUH?
RITO...

#14. A FATED MEETING...

I LIVED HERE
WHEN I WAS A
KID, SO IT'S KINDA
LIKE MY
BACKYARD.



YES. FOR SOME
REASON, MY
SCHOOL FIELD
TRIPS WERE ONLY
EVER IN KYUSHU.

YEAH!

IT'S A
NICE
PLACE.



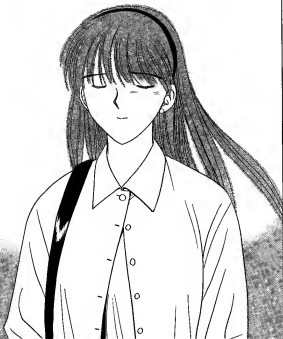
I WISH I COULD
RELAX A LITTLE BIT
MORE AND SPEND
SOME REAL TIME
HERE, INSTEAD OF
DOING THESE FIELD
TRIP PREPARATIONS.



#14. A FATED MEETING...

*I'M RETURNING TO
KYOTO...*

*THAT HAPPENED LAST
AUTUMN...AND NOW,*





COULD YOU
PLEASE TAKE
A PICTURE OF
US?



O-
OKAY.

ALL YOU
NEED TO
DO IS
PRESS
THAT
BUTTON
THERE.



YOU!
YEAH,
YOU!

HEY,
LADY!

HUH?
M...
ME?

SFX: noise



BUT BECAUSE
OF THE SEASON,
NO MATTER
WHERE I GO, I'M
SURROUNDED BY
TOURISTS AND
TOUR GROUPS...



ALL I WANT
TO DO IS
BE ALONE...



Rub



NARU-
KAM-
KUM?



AND TAKING
PHOTOGRAPHS
OF
STREET
SCENES

AND SHE
IS ALWAYS
TAKING
PHOTOS
OF
STREET
SCENES



LET ME
TRY
AGAIN.

I-I KNOW.
SORRY.
HERE,

HERE'S THE
SHUTTER
BUTTON!
RIGHT HERE!

WHAT'S
WRONG?



AH,
SURE.

WOULD YOU
MIND...TAKING
MY PICTURE
AS WELL?

FLEET



UHM...



UHM...PERHAPS
YOU SHOULD TRY
AND LOOK MORE
LIKE YOU'RE
ENJOYING
YOURSELF?



NO...UM,
YOU KNOW,
UHM...



L...LIKE
THIS?





SFX: sniff









OH, ARE
YOU
LOST?



OH,
SORRY!



SFX: wham

SFX: noise





GOOD
NIGHT
...

W-WELL
THEN...
GOOD
NIGHT...



WELL, THIS
IS AN ODD
TURN OF
EVENTS!



I RESERVED A
DOUBLE ROOM FOR
ME AND MY BOY-
FRIEND, SO IT'S BIG
ENOUGH FOR YOU TO
STAY IF YOU'D LIKE.
IT'S A BIT TOO BIG
FOR ONE PERSON,
ANYWAY...

SFX: jerk

SFX: sniff twitch



WHAT DID I
COME TO
KAWASAKI
ABOUT?



I'M FINE!
SORRY...
REALLY, I'M
SORRY!

UMM...
ARE YOU
ALRIGHT?



sniff
sniff





SFX: mumble





I'M
NOT REALLY...
INTERESTED
IN FORTUNETELLING,
TO BE HONEST.

AHHH
...

WANT TO GET
OUR FORTUNES
TOLD? I HEARD
THIS TEMPLE'S
FORTUNES
REALLY HIT CLOSE
TO THE MARK!
*Especially ones
about love...*



"THE
PERSON YOU
ARE WAITING
FOR WILL
NOT COME!"

SUPER
UN-
LUCKY!

I KNEW
IT!



A FATED
MEETING,
HUN?

SUPER
LUCKY?



YUKKO!



YOU'VE DONE
ENOUGH. I
DON'T WANT
TO RISK
PASSING MY
BAD LUCK ON
TO YOU.

THANK YOU
VERY MUCH
FOR TAKING
SUCH GOOD
CARE OF ME.



UM...

H-HEY,
DON'T
SAY
THAT!



OH, COME ON...IT'S
JUST A PIECE OF
PAPER. IT'S SILLY TO
GET SO WORKED UP
OVER IT.

And unscientific...

IT'S FINE,
YOU DON'T
NEED TO
CONSOLE
ME.



SFX: h3333



I'M FINALLY
ON MY
OWN...BUT
YOU KNOW...

pop

I'M A BIT
ENVOIOUS OF
HER...



bow



A FATED
MEETING?
YEAH
RIGHT...



WHAT I
TOLD HER
BACK
THEN?

DON'T TELL
ME SHE
STILL
REMEMBERS



SFX: dash



IN THAT
CASE...

BUT KYOTO
LOOKS A LOT
DIFFERENT IN
SUMMER

ESPECIALLY
MIDNIGHT
THE TOWN
IS SO BEAUTIFUL
AT THAT
TIME

JUDGING FROM
HER PERSONALITY,
I WOULD HAVE
EXPECTED HER
TO GO TO SOME
PLACE LIKE
YAMAGUCHI OR
AKITOHARA...

WHY DID
RITO DECIDE
TO COME TO
KYOTO?







SFX: whoosh mroww



SFX: whoosh



NARUKAMI-
KUN...?



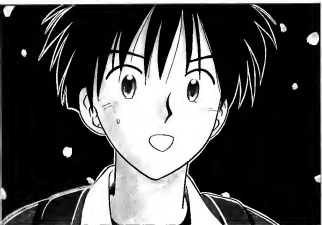


RITO...

YOU HAVE A
FATED MEETING
FOR YOU



HISOKA RETURNS!



NARUKAMI-
KUN...?





RITO...

#15. RITO'S DECISION!



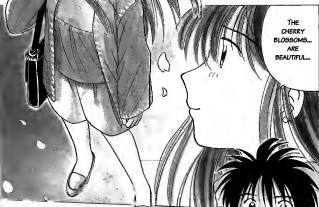
WOW
WOWWWW...
KAWAII!
KAWAII!

WOW
WOWWWW...
KAWAII!
KAWAII!





THE
CHERRY
BLOSSOMS...
ARE
BEAUTIFUL...



NOT AS
BEAUTIFUL
AS YOU,
THOUGH...

YEAH.

HEHEHEHE





THE FIRST
GENERATION
WILTED IN 1947,
AND THE SECOND
GENERATION WAS
PLANTED IN 1949.



NORMALLY,
"CHERRY BLOSSOMS"
REFER TO THE TYPE OF
BLOSSOMS THAT MAKE
UP 80% OF ALL CHERRIES
IN JAPAN, THE 'SOMEI-
YOSHINO' CHERRIES.

THESE ARE
THE EARLI-
EST CHERRY
BLOSSOMS
TO BLOOM IN
KYOTO.

BUT THESE
ARE A DIFFER-
ENT TYPE, THE
SHOGAKU-
ZAKURA.



I AM
AN EX-
BIOLOGY
TEACHER,
AFTER ALL!

WELL,
YEAH, I
GUESS.

YOU REALLY
KNOW A LOT
ABOUT CHERRY
BLOSSOMS,
NARUKAMI-
KUN!



THE WEeping
CHERRIES OF
GION...THESE
ARE THE
SECOND
GENERATION.

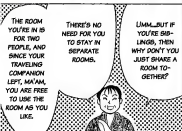






W...WAIT!

I'LL BE OUTSIDE IF YOU NEED ME. SEE?



THE ROOM YOU'RE IN IS FOR TWO PEOPLE, AND SINCE YOUR TRAVELING COMPANION LEFT, MA'AM, YOU ARE FREE TO USE THE ROOM AS YOU LIKE.

THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO STAY IN SEPARATE ROOMS.

UUM...BUT IF YOU'RE SIBLINGS, THEN WHY DON'T YOU JUST SHARE A ROOM TOGETHER?



H-HEY, ARE YOU SURE THIS IS ALRIGHT?

I GUESS I HAVE NO CHOICE.



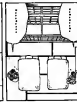
WE'RE EVEN EXTREMELY UNDER-STAFFED RIGHT NOW...

IN THIS SEASON, YOU'D BE HARD PRESSED TO FIND AN OPEN ROOM ANYWHERE!



I'M SORRY, BUT ALL OUR OTHER ROOMS ARE COMPLETELY BOOKED!





SFX: step

SFX: whom

YU...
YUKIKO-
SAN...

YOU'RE THE
ONE WHO
DOESN'T
UNDERSTAND!

WHY DON'T
YOU UNDERSTAND?!

YOU CAN'T
DECIDE WHERE
TO LIVE JUST
BECAUSE OF
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT!
WHAT ABOUT
MY JOB?!

IT'S SUCH A
WONDERFUL
PLACE! AND
NOW IT HOLDS
SUCH A
PRECIOUS
MEMORY
FOR US!

WE HAVE
TO LIVE IN
KYOTO!

I THOUGHT YOU
WERE GOING TO
RETURN TO
TOKYO RIGHT
AWAY...

THEY
HAVEN'T EVEN
GOTTEN
MARRIED YET,
AND THEY'RE
ALREADY
FIGHTING...

SHE
ORIGINALLY
PLANNED TO
STAY IN THIS
ROOM
WITH HER
BOYFRIEND.

I MET HER
ALONG THE
WAY AND
TOURED KYOTO
WITH HER.

YUKIKO
-SAN.

WH...WHO'S
THAT?

SFX: Grrrr

SFX: Arrow

SFX: Jitter







?

ALL WHO MEET
HERE ARE
BEAUTIFUL.

TO KYOMIZU...ON
A NIGHT IN GION,
WITH CHERRY
BLOSSOMS FILLING
THE NIGHT SKY.



SHE MUST
HAVE BEEN IN
LOVE WITH
SOMEONE, TOO.



BUT WHO MUST
HAVE BEEN SO
PRETTY UNDER
THAT SKY...ONE
WHO CAME
DOWN THE
ROAD, NO
MATTER WHO
THEY WERE,
LOOKED
BEAUTIFUL
AS WELL.

SEEING THE
NIGHT SKY
FILLED WITH
CHERRY
BLOSSOMS
WAS
PRETTY...

THAT'S A
SONG BY
YOSANO
AKIKO, A POET
FROM THE
MEIJI ERA.



BUT AT
THE TIME, TEKKAN
ALREADY HAD A
WIFE AND CHILD.



SHE MET
THE MAN WHO
WOULD LATER
BECOME HER
HUSBAND,
YOSANO
TEKKAN.

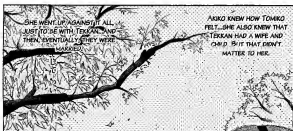
WHEN SHE
WROTE
THAT
SONG,





HER NAME WAS YAMAKA-
WA TOMIKO, AND SHE
SUPPORTED TERRAN.

AT FIRST, HE INCLUDED
ANOTHER WOMAN IN
THEIR ACTIVITIES AS A
FELLOW SONGWRITER.



SHE WENT UP AGAINST IT ALL
JUST TO BE WITH TERRAN, AND
THEN, EVENTUALLY, THEY WERE
MARRIED.

AKIKO KNEW HOW TOMIKO
FELT... SHE ALSO KNEW THAT
TERRAN HAD A WIFE AND
CHILD. BUT THAT DIDN'T
MATTER TO HER.



I COULD NEVER
LIVE LIKE SHE DID.



.....



I COULD
NEVER LIVE
AS FREELY
AS HER.

NO MATTER
HOW MUCH I
LOVED
SOMEONE,



.....



AT THE TIME
BEING, I'M NOT
EVEN SURE HOW I
REALLY FEEL
ABOUT CERTAIN
THINGS.

I MEAN...



AND TO
SEE THE
CHERRY
BLOS-
SOMS...

I CAME TO KYOTO
TO FIND OUT HOW I
REALLY FEEL...



I...

I'LL BE
HONEST.

NOW...I FEEL
LIKE I'M
STARTING TO
UNDERSTAND.





LIKE
YOU...

I...

HISOKA RETURNS!





#16. SPECIAL SEAT











TEENAGE
HERO?



MY FEELINGS
TOWARD
HASHIMA-SENSEI
HAVE BEEN MIXED
UP WITH MY FEEL-
INGS TOWARD YOU.

I'VE BEEN LOOKING AT
YOU AS IF I WAS
LOOKING AT
HASHIMA-SENSEI.

I DIDN'T REALLY UN-
DERSTAND THIS
BEFORE...IT WAS
HAPPENING INSIDE
OF ME, YET I
COULDN'T EXPLAIN IT,
AND NOTHING LIKE
THIS HAS EVER
HAPPENED TO ME
BEFORE, SO I THINK
IT MADE ME VERY
SENTIMENTAL.



I...

NOW I FINALLY
UNDERSTAND IT
ALL. IT ALL
MAKES SENSE.

BUT...



BUT...

IT'S ONLY BECAUSE
YOU RESEMBLE
HASHIMA-SENSEI.

THAT'S WHY...
I THINK...THE
WAY I "LIKE"
YOU IS SOME-
HOW DIFFERENT.



I STILL CAN'T FORGET
HASHIUMA-SENSEL





NARUKAMI
KUN

YOU ALSO
THOUGHT HARD
ABOUT
ME...THAT'S
ENOUGH TO
MAKE ME
HAPPY.

YOU'D NEVER
MAKE UP YOUR
MIND UNLESS YOU
WERE SURE ABOUT
SOMETHING.
THAT'S WHAT I
LIKE ABOUT YOU.

I KNOW THAT
YOU ALWAYS
THINK SERIOUSLY
ABOUT WHAT-
EVER COMES
YOUR WAY.



*RITO...I KNOW
REALLY CAN
THINGS TO YOU.*

I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD APOLOGIZE. IT REALLY SEEMS LIKE I CAUSED YOU A LOT OF TROUBLE AND PAIN. TO ME, IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU SAY HASHIJIMA OR GENGOROU...IT STILL MEANS YOU LIKE ME! BUT TO YOU, RITO, IT'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT...I NEED TO PUT YOUR FEELINGS FIRST NOW. BUT...THE FACT THAT YOU SAID THAT GENGOROU RESEMBLES HASHIJIMA MEANS THAT GENGOROU DOES HAVE A CHANCE...GENGOROU JUST NEEDS TO RISE HIGHER THAN YOUR MEMORIES OF HASHIJIMA...I NEED TO WORK HARD!!







SFX vroom







THE DAY IT
ARRIVED, I WAS
JUST SO HAPPY,
I FELL ASLEEP IN
THE GARAGE
STARING AT IT.

I WAITED FIVE
YEARS TO GET
MY HANDS ON
ONE, AND I'VE
NEVER RIDDEN
IN A CAR I
LIKED BETTER.



WOW.

THERE ARE
ONLY 75
MODELS IN
THE ENTIRE
WORLD, AND
EACH
ONE COSTS 30
MILLION YEN.

ELECTRICALLY-
CONTROLLED
BRAKES...AND
AT LIGHT
CONTROL!

A SILHOUETTE BUILT
ON ENGLISH
TRADITION...EQUIPPED
WITH POWER THAT
CAN SEND IT ZOOM-
ING UP TO 250KM.

THIS IS A
BENTLEY
TURBO SI



I HATE YOU
SEE YOU GO!



YATSU-
HASHI
SWEETS?

OH, PLEASE
TAKE THIS,
IF YOU LIKE.



BUT THIS
IS A
SOUVENIR
FROM
KYOTO...

GOOD-
BYE
NOW.

THEY'RE
DELICIOUS.



AH...THIS IS
FAR ENOUGH.
THANK YOU
VERY MUCH.



SFX: VROOM





OH... THAT
CAR?



BUT I
THOUGHT
YOU WERE
GOING TO
DRIVE UP IN
YOUR CAR?

OH, MY!

I CHANGED
MY MIND AND
DECIDED TO HEAD
TO TOKYO AS
SOON AS I
COULD.



sparkle
sparkle

I SOLD IT.

Smile!
sparkle



YOUR
CAR?

Y-YOU GOT
RID OF IT?





WOW.

MOVING ON...

ANYWAY,
THAT'S WHAT
HAPPENED!

SFX: hahahaha snicker



GEEZ. THERE'S
ABSOLUTELY NO
POINT WHERE I
COULD JUMP
INTO THE
CONVERSATION.

は
は
は
は
は
は



ALSO, THE
BRIDGE IS
A
VERY
IMPORTANT
PART OF
THE
CITY'S
INFRASTRUCTURE
AND
IT'S
VERY
VULNERABLE
TO
ATTACKS
FROM
THE
ENEMY.

ALSO,
THE
BRIDGE
IS
A
VERY
IMPORTANT
PART OF
THE
CITY'S
INFRASTRUCTURE
AND
IT'S
VERY
VULNERABLE
TO
ATTACKS
FROM
THE
ENEMY.

IT'S
NOT
JUST
THE
BRIDGE
THAT'S
IMPORTANT,
BUT
THE
CITY
ITSELF.

ALSO,



OH NO! IT'S
ALREADY 8 AM!

SFX: death

THE
MORNING
OF THE
NEW
SCHOOL
YEAR



NARUKAMI-
KUN?

HUH? RITO-
SENSEI?

I'M
LEAVING
NOW!



MY BAG BROKE
AND ALL MY STUFF
SPILLED OUT INTO
THE DOORWAY.

IT'S RARE FOR YOU
TO BE THIS LATE,
RITO-SENSEI.



WE NEED TO
HURRY, OR ELSE
WE'LL BE LATE TO
THE OPENING
CEREMONY!

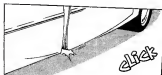
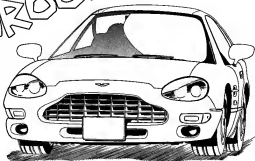
OH, THAT'S
FUNNY! MY
SHOELACE
SNAPPED WHEN I
WAS WALKING
OUT.



jingle

jingle

VROOM



A black and white manga panel. In the background, a man with dark hair, wearing a suit and tie, stands with a slight smile. He is surrounded by small star-like sparkles. In the foreground, a large, close-up shot of a young man with light-colored, wavy hair, smiling broadly with his eyes closed. To the left, a car is partially visible, with a license plate that reads '1287'.

MY
NAME IS
KARASUMA
YUUKI

I DECIDED TO COME TEACH
ENGLISH AT FUJIRA HIGH
STARTING THIS TERM.

I LOOK FORWARD TO
WORKING WITH YOU,
HOSHIZAKI-SENSEI.

An inset panel at the bottom left shows two students. On the left, a girl with long dark hair and bangs has her hands clasped in front of her mouth in a surprised or excited expression. On the right, a boy with spiky black hair looks shocked, with wide eyes and a slightly open mouth. A speech bubble from the boy contains the text.

WHAAAAAAT?!
BUT I THOUGHT
HE WAS GONE
FOR GOOD!



HISOKA RETURNS!

SCREECH



#17. THANKS TO YOU...

I LOOK FORWARD TO WORK-
ING WITH YOU,
HOSHIZAKI-
SENSEI.



I DECIDED TO COME
TEACH ENGLISH AT
PLURA HIGH STARTING
THIS TERM. MY NAME IS
KARASUMA YUULI.



WH-WHAAAAAAT?!

#17. THANKS TO YOU...







SFX: clamor

2-A

NICE
TO MEET
YOU ALL!

I, HOSHIZAKI,
WILL BE YOUR
HOMEROOM TEACHER
FOR THE NEXT YEAR.

PLEASE
QUIET
DOWN!

ざわ
ざわ

ざわ
ざわ

ざわ
ざわ



sparkle
sparkle

WILL BE HOSHIZAKI-
SENSEI'S TEACHING
ASSISTANT.

AND I,
KARASUMA...

THE
CLASS I'LL BE
TEACHING IS
ENGLISH.

PLEASE
INTRODUCE
YOURSELF TO
THE CHILDREN
AS WELL!

WHY
ARE YOU
INTRODUC-
ING YOUR-
SELF TO
ME?!

clamor



ざわ

clamor

I LOOK
FORWARD
TO WORKING
WITH YOU,
HOSHIZAKI-
SENSEI.



AFTER
SCHOOL



I GUESS I
SCARED
THE CAT.

AH, I'M
SORRY.

OH,
YOU'RE
HERE,
RITO-
SEMAIL.



WILL IT
EVER
COME TO
LIKE ME?



YOU'VE GOT
TO BE THE CAT
STAYING
AWAY FROM
THE HOUSE
YOU

YOU'VE GOT
TO BE THE CAT
STAYING
AWAY FROM
THE HOUSE
YOU



DON'T TELL
ME YOU
SKIPPED
HOMEROOM.

YOU'RE
HERE
EARLY
THOUGH,
NARU-
KAMI-KUN.

OF...
COURSE
NOT! I'D
NEVER DO
THAT!





SFX: rustle





CAFETERIAS SERVED
CAN CAUSE LOSS OF
APETITE, ROMANCE
BARRICA, AND GASTRO
STUCK. IT'S ALSO A
KIDNEY CASE OF DEATH
FOR YOUNG CATS.



SFX: clack





SFX: dash

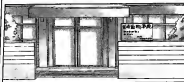


SFX: slap





DON'T DIE...!

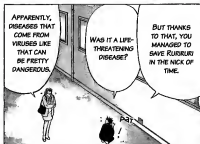


A FEW
DAYS
LATER...



I MEAN, YOU NEVER
CANCEL CLASS ALL OF
A SUDDEN LIKE THAT,
RITO-SENSEI.

WHEWW, I
HAT REALLY
SURPRISED
ME.



APPARENTLY,
DISEASES THAT
COME FROM
VIRUSES LIKE
THAT CAN
BE PRETTY
DANGEROUS.

WAS IT A LIFE-
THREATENING
DISEASE?

BUT THANKS
TO THAT, YOU
MANAGED TO
SAVE RUDIRUD
IN THE NICK OF
TIME.



IT'S MY
FAULT,
ANYWAY.

IT
WASN'T
TOO
BAD.

IT REALLY
MUST
HAVE
BEEN
TOUGH.

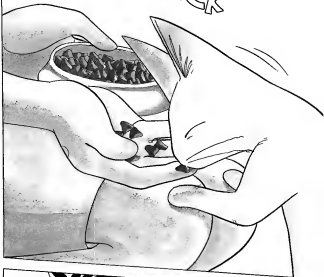
YOUR
HAND
WASN'T
SCRATCHED
UP TOO
BADLY?

HE DOESN'T
EVEN LIKE ME, BUT I
INSISTED ON
TAKING HIM TO THE
HOSPITAL MYSELF
ANYWAY.

HAHHAHA



Lick



HAAAAH
YEAH!





IT REALLY
MADE ME SAD...

HE WOULD
ALWAYS RUN
WHEN I GOT
NEAR.



OH NO. WHY
AM I CRYING
OVER SOME-
THING LIKE
THIS?



H-HE'S
EATING IT...

OUT OF MY
HAND...

HE USED TO
HATE ME SO
MUCH, TOO!





MAYBE
SOMETHING
ABOUT ME REALLY
DID CHANGE, AND
HE CAN TELL?



IF YOU
CHANGED...?



HUM?



IF THAT'S
THE CASE...

IF...



IF I REALLY
CHANGED
SOMEHOW...

IT MAY BE
THANKS
TO YOU,

NARUKA-
KUN...



IT WAS
NOTHING.



YOU WERE
SO QUIET, I
COULDN'T REALLY
HEAR WHAT YOU
SAID.

HUH?



HISOKA RETURNS!



HOSHIZAKI-
SENSEI...



RURURU-
KUN!

YOU GOT ALL
WORKED UP OVER
A CAT, HUM?

I'M SO
GLAD YOU'RE
ALL BETTER
NOW!

#19. A MAN WHO ABANDONED HIS PAST!

SHE'S ACTUALLY
QUITE GENTLE.

I THOUGHT SHE
WAS AS COLD AS
ICE, BUT THAT'S NOT
TRUE AT ALL...

#18. A MAN WHO ABANDONED HIS PAST!



VROOM



ding
dong



OH, DON'T
BE SILLY.

NOW I KNOW
WHY YOU'RE SO
POPULAR WITH
THE GIRLS.



YOU'RE
SO NICE,
KARASUMA-
SENSEI!

SORRY TO
MAKE YOU
DRIVE US
HOME LIKE
THIS.



HOW DID THIS
HAPPEN?

ORIGINALLY
I ONLY INTENDED
TO DRIVE
HOSHIZAKI-SENSEI
HOME...



EVERY DAY, I MEET
HISOKA AND NARUKAMI
RESEMBLE HISOKA.



But's never
noticed (since my
first love was like
him) because I
love his like him.

THAT'S WHY... I
THINK... THE WAY I
"LIKE" YOU IS SOME-
HOW DIFFERENT.

BUT... IT'S ONLY BECAUSE YOU
RESEMBLE HASHIJIMA-SENSEI.



THEN HOPEFULLY...

SINCE HASHIJIMA
HISOKA AND
NARUKAMI
GENGOROU ARE
ACTUALLY THE
SAME MAN,

AH, THIS IS
MY HOUSE!

SCREECH

BUT...

THERE'S
NOTHING I
CAN DO TO
FIX THAT
RIGHT
NOW...

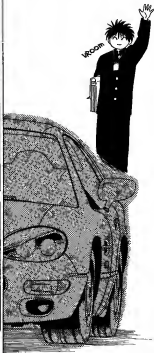




IF RITO
STILL LIKES
HASHIJIMA
HISOKA,
THEN I
JUST NEED TO
KEEP WORKING TO
OUTDO MYSELF.



SFX: screech





AH, OKAY THEN,
PLEASE TELL ME
YOUR PHONE
NUMBER.



S-SURE.
I DON'T
MIND...



SO DO
YOU MIND
IF I CALL
YOU LATER
TONIGHT?

THERE'S
SOMETHING
RELATED TO
SCHOOL
THAT I'D LIKE
TO DISCUSS
WITH YOU.



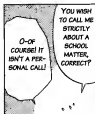
HL,HEY!

YOU ASKED
THEM ALL
SIMILAR
QUESTIONS,
I TAKE IT?

WOOW,
THAT
THING'S
FILLED WITH
GIRL'S
NAMES!



Peek



O-OF
COURSE! IT
ISN'T A PER-
SONAL CALL!

YOU WISH
TO CALL ME
STRICTLY ABOUT
A SCHOOL
MATTER,
CORRECT?



UH OH, I
WISH SHE
HADN'T REMEM-
BERED
THAT!

YOU DID
HAVE A LOT
OF GIRLS
AROUND
YOU WHEN I
FIRST MET
YOU IN
KYOTO.

THAT
REMINDS
ME,

SFX vroom



WHAT
IS IT?

VROOM

KADAGUMA-
SENDAI!



THANK
YOU

BYE
NOW...



SFX: screech





BUT RUMOR
HAS IT THAT HE
PROPOSED TO
HOSHIZAKI-
SENSEI RIGHT
BEFORE HE
DIED.

THEY
WEREN'T
GOING OUT
BEFORE
HAND,

HE PASSED
AWAY IN
JANUARY OF
THIS YEAR.

HIS
NAME IS
HASHIUMA-
SENSEI

THE STUDENTS
WHO WENT TO VISIT
HER THEN SAID
THEY'D NEVER SEEN
HER ACT LIKE THAT
EVER BEFORE.
EVERYONE WAS
TALKING ABOUT IT.

SHE FELL INTO
TOTAL
DESPERATION,
AND EVEN
THREATENED
TO QUIT BEING
A TEACHER.

SENSEI WAS
SO SHOCKED
AFTER HIS DEATH
THAT SHE QUIT
WORKING FOR
TWO WHOLE
WEEKS.



IT'S SO
ROMANTIC!

SHE'S
NEVER
STRAYED
FROM HER
ONE AND
ONLY
LOVE...



BUT SHE'S
SO STRICT AND
PROPER...
HOSHIZAKI-
SENSEI REALLY
SAID THAT?!



I WAS
REALLY
SURPRISED
TO LEARN
HOW
PASSIONATE
SHE WAS.

UP UNTIL THEN, I ONLY
THOUGHT OF HOSHIZAKI-SENSEI
AS A HARD- HEADED,
STRICT TEACHER.



AS A
TEACHER,
SHE'S A BIT
UNRELIABLE,
BUT...



I KIND OF
LOOK UP
TO HER.

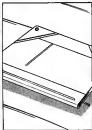


...I
DIDN'T SAY
ANYTHING!

AH! YOU
MUMBLED
SOMETHING
JUST NOW,
DIDN'T
YOU?!



I THINK SHE
RESEMBLES ME
IN HER SERIOUS
AND DEVOTED
NATURE.





YOU DON'T
HAVE CLASS IN
SECOND PERIOD,
DO YOU?

YES?

HOSHIZAKI-
SENSEI.

PLEASE COME
TO THE MEETING
ROOM WITH ME.

AND
KARASUMA-
SENSEI
AGAIN!

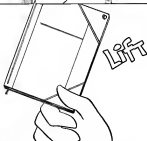
IT'S
HOSHIZAKI-
SENSEI.

AH

TSUGUMIHARA!
WHY AREN'T YOU
IN THE AV ROOM?
YOU'RE IN CHARGE,
AREN'T YOU?



SFX: snap







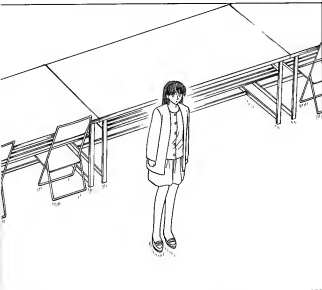
sfx: ding dong













HISOKA RETURNS!

#19. DECLARATION OF WAR!





AH...
WAIT,
KARASUMA-
SENSEI!



YOU DON'T
NEED TO
GET SO
ANGRY...



HOW LONG ARE
YOU GOING TO
KEEP HOLDING
MY HAND?!

HURRY UP
AND TAKE
THE BOX,
PLEASE!



THERE IS A TIME
AND A PLACE
FOR THAT, BUT
IT'S NOT HERE!

SHAKING HANDS IS
UNIVERSAL BODY
LANGUAGE IN THIS
DAY AND AGE. IT
EXPRESSES DEEP
AFFECTION.



HAHAH! I
KNEW IT.



ALL HIS EFFORTS
HAVE BEEN IN VAIN!

I'VE BEEN
WONDERING WHAT HAP-
PENED AFTER KARASUMA
CONFERRED TO RITO IN
THE MEETING ROOM,
BUT NOW I KNOW
FOR SURE.



I SHOULDN'T BE
TALKING, THOUGH.



HOW DID
YOU SEE
ON THE HILL
HOW HARD I
WORKED?

RITO'S THE "TEXT-
BOOK WOMAN,"
AFTER ALL!









N-NO,
BUT...



THAT'S
IMPORTANT
PAPERWORK!

Y-YOU
IDOT!



HE AND I
ARE GOING
TO HAVE A
LOOOOONG
TALK!

Hmph!
Go on,
leave,
then!



NOW THAT I
THINK ABOUT
IT, HE'S
ALWAYS BEEN
AT HER SIDE

I'VE BEEN IGNOR-
ING HIM UP UNTIL
NOW, BUT...

DOES
HE...LIKE
HER?!





I'M NOT VERY GOOD AT REMEMBERING MEN'S NAMES... BUT I WON'T FORGET THIS ONE!



NARUKAMI GENGOROU...





KARA-
GUMA...



HMP

NARUKAMI
GENGOROU!

THIS JANUARY,
HE WAS SAVED BY
HASHIJIMA-SENSEI,
A TEACHER FROM THIS
SCHOOL, AND THEN
TRANSFERRED IN FROM
ANOTHER SCHOOL.

BORN
OCTOBER 2!
LIBRA! AB
BLOOD TYPE!
LIVES WITH HIS
FATHER AND
MOTHER...

I WAS A
LITTLE SUR-
PRISED
WHEN I
FOUND OUT
YOU WERE A
STUDENT
HERE.

WHEN I
FIRST MET YOU IN
KYOTO, I THOUGHT
YOU WERE
HOSHIZAKI-
SENSEI'S LITTLE
BROTHER.



SNAP





WHENEVER MY FATHER HAD A DECISION TO MAKE IN REGARD TO HIS WORK, HE WOULD FLIP THIS COIN TO DECIDE. GOING THAT GRADUALLY LED HIS COMPANY TO MORE AND MORE SUCCESS.

IT'S A MOMENTO FROM MY FATHER. A 14TH CENTURY QUEEN VICTORIA SILVER CROWN COIN FROM ENGLAND...MY FATHER CALLED IT HIS "LUCKY COIN."





WHEN FACED
WITH MORTAL COMBAT,
A KNIGHT WOULD OFTEN
GIVE A BEAUTIFUL PIECE
OF ARMOR, A JEWEL, OR
SOME OTHER PRIZED
POSSESSION
TO HIS FOE

IN ORDER
TO SEND A
MESSAGE: "I'M
GOING TO DEFEAT
YOU AND TAKE
IT BACK!"

IT WAS A WAY
OF SHOWING HE
HAD ABSOLUTE
CONFIDENCE
THAT HE WOULD
COME OUT
VICTORIOUS.





AND MOST
IMPORTANTLY, I'M
AN ADULT! JUST
LIKE HOSHIZAKI-
SENSEI!



AREN'T
YOU SUPPOSE TO
ADVISE
ME...

I DON'T
KNOW
YOU'RE
TALKING
ABOUT



NORMALLY,
SOMEONE IN
MY POSITION
WOULDN'T EVEN
CONSIDER
YOU TO BE
COMPETITION.

I KNOW I
HAVE THE
ADVANTAGE.

NO MATTER HOW
YOU LOOK AT IT, I'M
THE BETTER MATCH
FOR HER! RIGHT?

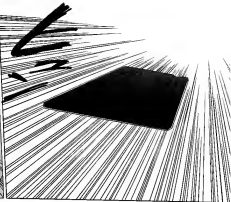


I HAVE A
FEELING THAT
YOU'VE GOT A
SPECIAL
SOMETHING.

HOW-
EVER.



SFX: whoosh



RITO-SENSEI
GAVE ME
THAT IN
KYOTO.



A TELE-
PHONE
CARD?







SFX: rumble



HISOKA RETURNS!





SFX stagger





STUDENTS ARE
FREE TO DO AS THEY
PLEASE UNTIL 3 PM.
BUT BE SURE TO
STAY WITH YOUR
GROUPS!



Does GENGOROU
HAVE A WEAK CON-
STITUTION OR
SOMETHING?

UNUU... THIS
IS THE FIRST
TIME I'VE
EVER FELT
THIS BAD.



I'M FINE,
I'M FINE.

NARUKAMI-
KUN? LET ME
KNOW IF YOU
START TO
FEEL BAD. I
CAN WALK
SLOWER.

ARE YOU
ALRIGHT,?





SFX: stagger





NOW WE
JUST NEED
TO MAKE THE
ROUNDS AND
CHECK THAT
EVERYONE'S
ASLEEP.

PHEW...WELL,
NONE OF THE
STUDENTS GOT
SICK OR HURT
TODAY, SO
THAT'S A
RELIEF.



SFX: squeal



SFX: thud



WARIYAMA
PARK





WHY DID YOU SNEAK OUT?

DON'T GIVE ME THAT!



HUH? RITO-SENSEI!



I'M SO LUCKY!



OH, COME ON!



I FIGURED THE ONLY THING I COULD REALLY DO WAS COME BACK AND VISIT THE PLACE WHERE WE VIEWED THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS TOGETHER.

I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO COME OUT AND JOIN ME, THOUGH.

WE'RE TRAVELING TOGETHER, BUT SINCE WE'RE IN DIFFERENT CLASSES, I CAN BARELY SEE YOU AND TALK TO YOU.



NOW THAT ALL THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS HAVE FALLEN, IT LOOKS A LOT DIFFERENT.

BUT CHECK OUT HOW PRETTY THE STARS LOOK!

AWH, I
DIDN'T
MAKE IT!

I WISH THAT RITO
AND I CAN STAY
TOGETHER FOREVER. I
WISH THAT RITO AND I
CAN STAY TOGETHER
FOREVER. I WISH...



HEH, YOU
DON'T BELIEVE IN
THESE KINDS OF
THINGS AT ALL,
DO YOU?

YOU
LOOKED SO
SERIOUS. WHAT
WERE YOU
WISHING
FOR?

ALTHOUGH,
I DON'T
REALLY
BELIEVE IN
THEM
EITHER...
BUT...

GO
TO
SLEEP



WE CAN'T
LET YOUR
COLD GET
ANY
WORSE.

AH, WE
SHOULD
BE GET-
TING
BACK.



BENEATH IT
IS URSA
MAJOR.

THOSE
SEVEN
BRIGHT
STARS MAKE
UP THE BIG
DIPPER.

AH, A
SHOOTING
STAR!



I'LL STAY
WITH HIM TO-
NIGHT AND THEN
SEND HIM HOME
TO TOKYO IN THE
MORNING.
YES.

AH...PLEASE
TELL KARASUMA-
SENSEI TO TAKE
CARE OF CLASS A
FOR ME. IS THAT
ALRIGHT? OK.

総合病院

THANK
YOU VERY
MUCH. OK.

YOU
REALLY
CARE
ABOUT
YOUR
PARENTS,
DON'T YOU?

DO YOU
MIND?

YOU'RE
GOING TO
STAY WITH
HIM
TONIGHT?

OF
COURSE
NOT.

WELL...

WHIIIRRR

NARUKAMI-
KUN...!!





YEAH, THIS
DIDN'T LOOK
TOO BAD.

AND NOT ONLY
ARE WE TEACHER
AND STUDENT
NOW, BUT WE'RE
IN DIFFERENT
CLASSES.

SHE'S 18CM
TALLER THAN ME,
AND SEVEN
YEARS OLDER
THAN ME...

NOT TOO
BAD AT
ALL...

I COULD SEE
THESE TWO
PEOPLE BEING A
REAL COUPLE.

SOMEDAY...

BUT
LOOKING AT
US NOW, WE
DON'T LOOK
TOO BAD

YOU'D BE
HARD-PRESSED
TO FIND MORE OF
A MISMATCHED
COUPLE...





RIGHT
NOW...



I FEEL
LIKE I
COULD
ALMOST
TOUCH
HER...





GUESS I
SHOULD BE
HEADING
BACK.



GENGOROU
...NO,
HASHIJIMA
HISOKA.

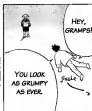


WOW! THE
STARS ARE
COMPLETELY
ENVELOPING
THE EARTH!

ALL THOSE LIGHTS
DOWN THERE...
EACH OF THEM
REPRESENTS A
DIFFERENT PERSON
WITH HIS OR HER
OWN LIFE AND HIS
OR HER OWN PRO-
BLEMS. THEY'RE ALL
DOING THEIR BEST
JUST TO GET

THERE
ARE MORE
PROBLEMS...
AS WELL AS
MORE JOYS
THAN THERE
ARE STARS IN
THE SKY.

AND
MIST ALL
THAT STANDS
BETWEEN
RITO AND I.



A SPECIAL INTERVIEW WITH YAGAMI KEN!



YAGAMI KEN-

BORN MAY 31 IN HIROSHIMA. RECIPIENT OF THE SHONEN JUMP (SHUEISHA) M.B. HONORABLE MENTION AWARD. AFTER DRAWING A FEW MORE ONE-PAGES, HE BEGAN HIS FIRST REGULARIZATION IN WEEKLY SHONEN JUMP: "YINOKA RETURNING" IT BECAME A HIT, AND TOTALLED IN AT SEVEN VOLUMES. IN 2001, HE BEGAN INTRODUCING "YINOKA 4.5" IN WEEKLY SHONEN CHAMPION (AGTA SHUEI). THIS WAS ALSO A HIT, AND BECAME A TV ANIME IN 2002. CURRENTLY, HE CONTINUES TO DRAW MANGA WHILE ALSO DOING CHARACTER DESIGN FOR VIDEO GAMES. HIS REPRESENTATIVE WORKS INCLUDE YINOKA RETURNING, KANAKO 4.5, AND ARMA 2.

*HOW HISOKA RETURNS! WAS BORN...

HOW DID HISOKA RETURNS! COME TO BE?

WHEN I STARTED DRAWING IN THINGS TO JUMP, MY FIRST PUBLISHED WORK BASED UP BEING FURAFURA (*1), A ONE-SHOT THAT WAS PUBLISHED IN A SPECIAL ISSUE. IT WAS PRETTY POPULAR, SO I DREW THREE MORE CHAPTERS OF THE SAME SERIES, AND THERE WERE ALSO PUBLISHED AS WELL. THE NEXT STEP AFTER THAT WAS TO THINK OF SOME SORT OF SERIALIZATION. THERE WAS TALK ABOUT TURNING FURAFURA INTO A SERIALIZATION, BUT IT REALLY WOULDN'T HAVE TO BE ONE, SO I KEPT CERTAIN ELEMENTS FROM IT (LIKE OUT-OF-BODY EXPERIENCES) AND WENT ON TO CREATE A COMPLETELY NEW SERIES. THAT BECAME HISOKA RETURNS!

PLEASE TELL US A LITTLE MORE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE HISOKA RETURNS! WAS CREATED.

WELL, ACTUALLY, BEFORE I STARTED DRAWING IN THINGS TO JUMP, I HAD A MANGA THAT WAS BEING SERIALIZED IN A BASEBALL MAGAZINE CALLED "MONTHLY GIANTS" (*2). I DREW A MANGA EVERY MONTH THAT FEATURED OLD FAMOUS BASEBALL PLAYERS (LOL). IT WAS ABOUT 12 PAGES PER MONTH, FOR THREE YEARS. BUT THAT WAS A BASEBALL MAGAZINE, NOT A MANGA MAGAZINE, SO I COULDN'T DO ANY ORIGINAL STUFF WHEN I GOT INTO MY LATE 20S. I REALLY WANTED TO TRY DRAWING MY OWN ORIGINAL SERIALIZATION, SO I STARTED BEING THINGS INTO SHONEN MANGA MAGAZINES. THE FIRST THING I REQUESTED IN WAS A MANGA ABOUT KENDO (*3). THE MINUTE I SHOWED IT TO THE EDITOR, HE TOOK IT TO HIMSELF, FORTUNATELY, BUT HE DID LET ME SEND IT IN TO THE MONTHLY NEW MANGA ARTIST AWARDS. I DIDN'T EXPECT ANY GOOD RESULTS, THOUGH, SO I DECIDED TO MOVE ON TO SOMETHING ELSE. THE NEXT THING I DREW WAS "FURAFURA." AS I WAS WORKING ON IT, BY SOME MIRACLE, I WON THE NEW MANGA ARTIST AWARDS WITH MY SENDO MANGA. NORMALLY, WHEN YOU WIN AWARDS LIKE THAT, THEY PUBLISH FOUR MANGA IN THE MAGAZINE, BUT I DECIDED TO SWITCH TO "FURAFURA" AND GET THAT PUBLISHED INSTEAD. (IN THE SEASONAL SPECIAL EDITION OF WEEKLY SHONEN JUMP) "FURAFURA" RECEIVED A SURPRISING AMOUNT OF POPULARITY. SO I WROTE THREE MORE CHAPTERS FOR IT, AND THE THIRD WAS PUBLISHED IN WEEKLY SHONEN JUMP. AT THAT TIME, READERS WOULD NOTE ON THE ONE-SHOTS THAT APPEARED IN THE MAGAZINE, AND THE WINNER WOULD GET TO START THEIR OWN SERIALIZATION, SO I TOOK "FURAFURA" INTO THE BATTLE ZONE. (UNFORTUNATELY, I ONLY CAME IN THIRD PLACE, BUT I DID GET A LOT OF DATA CONCERNING READERS' COMMENTS ON MY MANGA, SO I TRIED TO HAVE MEETINGS CONCERNING A POSSIBLE FUTURE SERIALIZATION. IN "FURAFURA," THE MAIN CHARACTER HAS THE ABILITY TO REMOVE HIS SPIRIT FROM HIS BODY AT WILL, WHICH HE USED TO SOLVE CASES. IT WAS PERFECT FOR A ONE-SHOT SERIES, AS IT ALLOWED ME TO END EACH STORY NICELY EACH TIME, BUT HAVING TO THINK UP A NEW CASE EACH WEEK FOR A WEEKLY SERIALIZATION SEEMED LIKE IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT. (LOL) SO INSTEAD OF TRYING TO REWRITE "FURAFURA" TO BECOME A SERIALIZATION, I SET OUT TO CREATE A COMPLETELY NEW WORK THAT WAS MORE FIT TO BECOME A WEEKLY MANGA. I LEFT IN THE OUT-OF-BODY DIFFERENCE ELEMENT FROM "FURAFURA," THEN ADDED IN THESE NEW ELEMENTS: "ROMANCE," "BENCHWARMING," AND "CROSSING PATHS." AS MY NEW SERIES TOOK SHAPE, I STARTED HAVING MORE SERIALIZATION MEETINGS. EVENTUALLY, THIS MANGA BECAME "HISOKA RETURNS!"

YOU MEAN THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN A SERIALIZATION VERSION OF "FURAFURA?"

THERE WERE A LOT OF FANS AT THE TIME, BUT WHENEVER I THOUGHT ABOUT DRAWING A SERIALIZATION, IT JUST SEEMED WAY TOO HARD. (LOL)

HISOKA RETURNS! FINALLY GOT READY TO BE SERIALIZED,
BUT THERE WERE STORIES WAITING AHEAD.



*1. "FURAFURA" - FOUR ONE-SHOT CHAPTERS IN TOTAL, COLLECTED IN THE ANTHOLOGY

"FURAFURA - YAGAMI KEN MASTERPIECE COLLECTION I" (SHUEISHA, OUT OF PRINT)

*2. "MONTHLY GIANTS" - THE GIANTS' ONLY FAN MAGAZINE.

*3. "KENDO MANGA" - IT WAS CALLED "CACTUS BLADE." IT WAS NEVER AWARDED, BUT WAS BEING COLLECTED IN THE ANTHOLOGY "FURAFURA - YAGAMI KEN MASTERPIECE COLLECTION I" (SHUEISHA, OUT OF PRINT)



Originally, he had no plans to put Hiroka back into his body (or make her search for him)

CAN YOU TELL US SOME BEHIND-THE-SCENES TALES FROM WHEN HIROKA RETSUMI WAS IN SERIALIZATION?

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN... (LOL) IT WAS MY FIRST SERIALIZATION, SO I WAS FILLED WITH CONFUSION. I WAS SO BUSY, IN FACT, THAT I DON'T REMEMBER MUCH FROM THAT PERIOD. ILL TRY TO REMEMBER AS MUCH AS I CAN, THOUGH. FIRST, ILL START WITH THE OFFICIAL. IT WAS REALLY HARD TO FIND UP MORE STORY QUICK WHEN, WHEN IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE SERIES WOULD GO INTO SERIALIZATION, I FORGOT THE DRAFTS. (He) ASK THE FIRST THREE CHAPTERS TO MY EDITOR, THE SECOND AND THIRD CHAPTERS ENDED UP GETTING REJECTED, SO I REWROTE REORGANIZED THE MARCH WITH ABSOLUTE NO STUCK.

THAT'S PRETTY AMAZING

LEARNING TOO MUCH TIME IN BETWEEN HIROKA RETSUMI AND FURUKAWA WOULD WEAKEN THE PRESENCE OF MY FIRST ACCOMPLISHMENTS, SO I HAD TO START IT AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE. I HAD GOTTEN THE OK FOR THE SECOND AND THIRD CHAPTERS AT THE SERIALIZATION MEETING, BUT MY EDITOR AT THE TIME WAS A BIG FAN OF COME-AND-THROW-CHILDREN, AND IN THE END HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BETTER IF I JUST REWROTE THEM HIS YEAR OF TRYING TO FIX ALL THE PROBLEMS, SO I HAD TO REWRITE THEM IN THE END. I WAS JUST WONDERING WHETHER IT'D REALLY BE ALRIGHT TO START THE SERIALIZATION LIKE THAT.

WHAT WAS YOUR WEEKLY SCHEDULE LIKE DURING THE SERIALIZATION?

I WOULD HAVE MEETINGS WHEN I TURNED IN MY MANUSCRIPT, THEN SPEND 8 HOURS DURING THE DRAFTS, AND 3-4 DAYS FILING IN THE NET. NORMALLY, I'D HAVE TO DO THE DRAFTS TWO TIMES. I WAS ABSOLUTELY NO TIME TO SLEEP. I WAS SO BUSY THAT HOPEFULLY, I CAN'T REALLY REMEMBER MUCH, BUT TRYING BACK MY MEMORY, I THINK IT WENT SOMETHING LIKE THIS. (LOL) DEPENDS ON HOW THE POPULARITY NOTES WENT, I HAD TO CONSIDER THROWING OUT MY LONG-TIME STORY PLANS FOR THE MARCH. AT FIRST, THE "SEARCH FOR KOTO" PART OF THE STORY WAS OBVIOUSLY NOT IN MY HAND, NOR WAS RETSUMI'S STORY TO HIS GARDEN, KNOW WHEN I FIRST STARTED PLANNING THE SERIES, I INTENDED TO HAVE HIROKA STAY IN CHUJIKOJI'S BODY AND THEN BUILD UP HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH KOTO AGAIN. (LOL)

I BET IT WAS DIFFICULT TO CHANGE SO MUCH.

AT THE TIME, "YOU YU HARUKO" (He) HAD BECOME A HUGE SUCCESS IN JAPAN, SO MY EDITOR WOULD OFTEN SAY "TWO FACTS GO THAT IN YOU YU HARUKO, SO IT'S GOTTA WORK!" (LOL) IT WAS MY FIRST TIME STARTING A SERIALIZATION, AND ALSO MY FIRST TIME TO HAVE A SERIALIZATION GET CANCELED. (LOL) IN THE END, MY POPULARITY RATINGS WERE REALLY CRASHING, SO MY EDITOR STARTED ASKING ME TO TURN IT INTO A BATTLE MANGA. I HAD WORKED SO HARD TO INSTANTLY AFTER LEARN THAT THE ENTIRE TIME, AND THE PRESSURE WAS REALLY CRASHING TO GET TO ME. IN THE END, I EVEN STARTED TO THINK "WELL, I GUESS ILL JUST TRY IT, EVEN IF IT SUCCEEDS I KNOW IT WOULD SUCCEED TOO!" AND I STARTED WRITING THE STORY IN THAT DIRECTION. THEN, ONE WEEK, WHEN I HAD FINISHED THE DELICATE TIME FOR MY DRAFTS IN ORDER TO THINK BACK ABOUT THE FUTURE OVERLINE, I GOT A CALL FROM MY EDITOR.

YAGAMI: "HI, THANK I FINALLY THOUGHT OF SOMETHING GOOD!"

EDITOR: "FORGET IT...MAYBE, JUST FINISH THE SERIES IN THESE MORE CHAPTERS."

YAGAMI: "OK."

AT THE MOMENT, I FELT SO RELIEVED. IT WAS REALLY HARD TO FINISH THE SERIES IN THESE CHAPTERS, THOUGH.

IT WAS RELIEVING TO FIND OUT THAT YOUR SERIES HAD BEEN CANCELED?

I FELT SO CONNECTED AT THE TIME. AT THE REQUEST OF MY EDITOR, I HAD WORKED MY HARDEST TO PREPARE A PLAN TO SHIFT HIROKA RETSUMI INTO A BATTLE MANGA, BUT I REALLY FELT CONFUSED, UP TO WHETHER OR NOT I COULD PULL IT OFF. OF COURSE, I WOULD HAVE ASKED MY BEST IF I REALLY HAD TO. (LOL) I KNOW THAT NORMALLY, PEOPLE GET DEPRESSIVE WHEN THEIR SERIES GET CANCELED, BUT...

*4: DRAFTS - ROUGH DRAFTS OF THE PANELS AND TEXT FOR THE MANGA. THESE ARE WHAT EXIST BEFORE THE FINAL MANUSCRIPTS ARE CREATED. SERIALIZATIONS NORMALLY BEGIN AFTER BEYOND DRAFTS ARE STOCKED UP.

*5: YOU YU HARUKO - YOU YU HARUKO STARTED OUT AS A COMIC ABOUT HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS, BUT THEN SLOWLY CHANGED INTO A BATTLE MANGA, AND BECAME A HUGE HIT. IT WAS ALSO MADE INTO A TV ANIME.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM DRAWING HISOKA RETURNS?

TO DO YOUR BEST EVERY CHANCE YOU GET, AND BE PREPARED TO CHANGE THINGS AT ANY TIME. MY EDITOR HAD A LOT OF POWER OVER ME AT THE TIME, AND HE WOULD OFTEN TRY TO ARGUE ME INTO SURRENDERING ABOUT THINGS, SO I ENDED UP HAVING TO NEGOTIATE ALL THE TIME, AND SAY THINGS LIKE "THIS IS THE ONE THING I WON'T ON KNEEPAINT!" SO, I DID LEARN HOW TO LISTEN TO PEOPLE'S OPINIONS AND STILL UPHOLD MY OWN.

PLEASE TELL US YOUR FAVORITE CHAPTERS AND CHARACTERS FROM HISOKA RETURNS!

HISOKA, ITSU, CHONGKORO, TAKASHIMAZA, MIKASU! I LOVE THEM ALL, BUT IT'S HARD TO CHOOSE ONLY ONE. I REALLY LIKE CHAPTER 87 (74), WHICH FOCUSES ON CHONGKORO WHEN I MET TO DISCUSS THE CHAPTER, MY EDITOR SAID "I CAN'T UNDERSTAND HOW CHONGKORO FEELS." BUT I REALLY DO. I THOUGHT "THIS IS ME. MY NEW SELF." (LOL.) IT'S BASICALLY ABOUT A PERSONAGE. AT THE TIME, THERE WERE OTHER SIMILAR HEROES, WEREN'T THERE? I NEVER IMAGINED TO BE ABLE TO JOURNALS SOMETHING LIKE THAT IN HISOKA RETURNS! SO I WAS REALLY HAPPY TO SEE THE RESPONSE TO IT. I ALSO LIKE HISOKA'S PAST FLASHBACK, AND THE FACTS THAT FEATURE THE BEAST-TRIPPER (LOOL) WHEN I HAD BEEN ABLE TO INTRODUCE HISOKA AND FEATURE HIS MODEL. I INTENDED TO INTRODUCE HER AS SOON AS THE SEARCH FOR KID AND REDAL, BUT MY EDITOR SAID "THAT STUFF CAN WAIT FOR LATER," SO SHE ENDED UP GETTING PUSHED BACK.

*8. CHAPTER 87 - "THE FRODO MODEL" - SEE VOLUME 2.

*9. USED TO RESCUE BODY ENERGY IN HISOKA AND RELIGIOUS CONTEXTS. IN THE SERIES, IT SEEMS TO BE A LITTLE BIT.

*10. IN CHAPTER 87 - "THE FRODO MODEL" CHONGKORO APPEARS AS A VERY PERSONAL.



WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON REINCARNATION?

I DON'T A LOT OF QUESTIONS ABOUT THAT DURING THE REINCARNATION. I ALWAYS LOVED MYSTERIOUS THINGS LIKE THAT SINCE I WAS A KID. THE SEVEN WONDERS OF THE WORLD, PARANORMAL THINGS, AND OTHER MYSTERIES OF THE WORLD. I READ A LOT OF BOOKS ON THOSE THINGS. I THINK THAT REBIRTH WHEN I WAS A CHILD, I BELIEVED IN ANGELS, LIFES, REINCARNATION, EVERYTHING. BUT NOW I DON'T FEEL BELIEVE IN ALL OF IT, BUT I DON'T THINK IT'S ABSOLUTELY IMPOSSIBLE.

I DON'T JUST ACCEPT ALL THE SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION I FIND AT FACE VALUE, BUT I TRY TO LOOK AT IT FROM ANOTHER POINT OF VIEW, AND THINK ABOUT HOW IT COULD BE SCIENTIFICALLY POSSIBLE. I THINK IT'S FUN TO THINK ABOUT THINGS LIKE THAT.

BUT NO MATTER HOW MUCH SCIENTIFIC THINGS I BELIEVE IN, I DON'T THINK MY BASIC LIFESTYLE WILL EVER CHANGE. EVEN IF MY SOUL IS GOING TO BE REBORN/REBORN AND REINCARNATED, IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT MY LIFE NOW IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO ME. INSTEAD OF BEING OVERLY THOUGHTFUL FOR MYSTERIOUS THINGS, I THINK IT'S MORE IMPORTANT TO TREASURE THE THINGS AND PEOPLE WHO ARE CLOSE TO ME IN FRONT OF YOUR EYES. BECAUSE, IT'S HARD ENOUGH TO LIVE MY LIFE AS IT IS. (LOL)

AS FOR REINCARNATION DOES, I WAS REALLY JUST THINK IT AS A SHOCK WITHIN THE STORY. I CUT OUT ALL PHYSICAL SCIENTIFIC ELEMENTS THAT I THOUGHT WOULD BE SPOILERS TO THE STORY. SO, THE AFTERLIFE, REBIRTH, HELL, I KEPT ALL OF THAT STUFF COMPLETELY OUT. I USED REBIRTH A LOT OF BOOKS ON SECRET RELIGIONS, THE AFTERLIFE, AND REINCARNATION TO TRY AND GATHER THAT KNOWLEDGE IN THE MANGA, BUT HONESTLY, NONE OF IT WAS VERY USEFUL. EXCEPT FOR THE TERM "LIFE." (74)

HOW DID IT FEEL TO DRAW A NEW ONE-SHOT BASED ON "HISOKA RETURNS?" (74)

IT FELT LIKE I WAS REUNITING OLD FRIENDS. WHEN I WAS DRAWING THEM, I FELT LIKE THEY HAD BEEN THERE THE WHOLE TIME.

ORIGINALLY, THE IDEA WAS TO TRY AND USE FLAT IDEAS THAT I ORIGINALLY HAD TO CHANGE DURING THE REORGANIZATION, BUT AFTER THINKING IT THROUGH, I ENDED UP GOING BACK TO BEFORE THE REORGANIZATION ACTUALLY BEGAN (LOL) BUT I DON'T WANT ANYONE TO MISUNDERSTAND, SO I'LL TRY TO EXPLAIN IT IN DETAIL. DURING THE REORGANIZATION, THERE WERE SEVERAL POINTS WHERE THE STORY DEVIATED FROM MY ORIGINAL PLANS, AND OF COURSE THE STORY JUNCTIONS THAT APPEARED IN CROSS-CHAPERS. SO IF THE QUESTION IS, "IF YOU GO BACK TO ONE PARTICULAR JUNCTION AND START WRITING AGAIN FROM THERE, WILL YOU BE ABLE TO MAKE A GOOD STORY?" THE ANSWER IS NOT NECESSARILY YES. THE STORY ENDED WITH A BUNCH OF ELEMENTS I HADN'T PLANNED TO PUT IN AT ALL IN THE BEGINNING, LIKE HISOKA RETURNING TO HIS ORIGINAL BODY, AND GENOSUKE BECOMING SANE. BUT YOU KNOW WHAT? I THINK IT ENDED UP BETTER THAN I ORIGINALLY PLANNED. I WAS CONSIDERABLY TRYING TO THINK UP NEW STORIES, SO I THINK IT BECAME BETTER OVERALL IN THE END. GETTING BACK ON TOPIC, I THINK YOU'LL UNDERSTAND IF YOU READ IT, BUT THE REASON I WENT SO FAR BACK IN THE STORY WAS BECAUSE I WANTED TO GIVE READERS A COMPLETELY PARALLEL STORY THAT THEY COULD EASILY SEPARATE FROM THE REORGANIZATION REGION. THIS WAS CLOSER TO THE DRAFT I ORIGINALLY SUBMITTED FIRST AT THE REORGANIZATION MEETING, YOU KNOW. THEN, AFTER THE MEETING, I WAS FACED WITH A DECISION. I COULD EITHER TRY TO GO WITH WHAT I HAD, OR TRY TO MAKE IT EVEN BETTER AND THEN SUBMIT THE NEW VERSION. I ENDED UP GOING WITH THE LATTER, AND THE FIRST DRAFT WAS SHREVE! I REALLY LIKED THAT DRAFT, THOUGH, AND I ALWAYS WANTED TO TRY AND FINISH IT, SO I USED THIS AS A CHANCE TO DO JUST THAT.

WHAT SPECIAL MEANING DOES HISOKA RETURNS! HAVE FOR YOU, YAGAMI-SENSEI?

IT TAUGHT ME A LOT AND GAVE ME A LOT OF IMPORTANT MEMORIES. AT THE SAME TIME, IT'S THE FRUIT OF ALL MY LABORS, AND THE CHILD I GAVE BIRTH TO. YET IT'S ALSO THE WORST THAT I'D HELL CAN'T SIMPLY DESCRIBE IT IN ONE SENTENCE. WHEN I WAS SUBMITTING MORE TO JUMP, I SORT OF HAD AN IDEA OF HOW A REORGANIZATION WOULD CHANGE ME. AT THE TIME, DRAGON BALL AND SLAM DUNK WERE FIGHTING FOR THE #1 SPOT, SO THE MANGA WORLD WAS SATURATED WITH ACTION AND SPORTS MANGA. THEREFORE, I THOUGHT A LIGHTER SERIES WOULD ACTUALLY STAND OUT MORE. I WAS GOING WITH A HARVEST MOON REBIRTH WHEN I SUBMITTED MY WORK TO JUMP. AS I SAID BEFORE, AFTER THE REORGANIZATION ENDED, THE POPULARITY METEOR AND EDITORS' OPINIONS BEGAN FORCING ME TO RECONSIDER CHANGE THE STORYLINE AND STRUCTURE OF THE MANGA. AS A RESULT, I HAD TO FOCUS ON UPDOLLING THE EDITORS' REQUESTS, AND THAT TAUGHT ME THAT THERE ARE CERTAIN THINGS I SHOULD YIELD, EVEN THOUGH I HADN'T REALLY CONSIDERED THEM BEFORE. FIGURING OUT HOW TO GET AROUND MY EDITORS' IMPOSINGLY CHANGING REALLY TAUGHT ME A LOT. I THINK THE SERIES REALLY UPHELD THE THINGS I VALUED AS AN AUTHOR, LIKE THE STORYLINE, THE SETTING, THE CHARACTERS...THERE WERE MANY ELEMENTS THAT I CHANGED DUE TO MY EDITORS' DEMANDS, BUT IN THE END, THE CHARACTERS THAT REMAINED TOLD US HOW I DEVELOPED THEM. I REALIZED THAT I'M AN AUTHOR WHO LIKES TO DRAW CHARACTERS, AND SO I'M VERY PARTICULAR ABOUT THEM. SO I WAS VERY AGHAST KILLING CHARACTERS FOR NO REASON. THEY DIDN'T JUST GO FOR HISOKA RETURNS! IN ALL OF MY SERIES, I SEE THE CHARACTERS AS A PART OF ME, AND THEREFORE I REALLY TREASURE THEM. THEY MAY SEEM ROUGH, AND I KNOW THEY'RE IMPERFECT, BUT THEY'RE STILL A PART OF ME, AND I CAN'T JUST CUT THEM AWAY.

TO CLOSE, IS THERE ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE TO SAY TO THE FANS?

I HAVE A LOT OF ABRUPT THINGS FOR VARIOUS REASONS DURING THE REORGANIZATION. (LOL) BUT I ALWAYS DO MY BEST. NOT ONE CHAPTER WAS DRAWN WITH ANYTHING LESS THAN 100% OF MY EFFORT. IT'S A PRETTY ELLSABY MANGA, BUT I HOPE YOU CAN ALL KEEP LOVING IT.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

INTERVIEWER: KASHIWASHI
HIDEKAZU

*The new Hisoka Returns! one-shot has been collected in volume 11.



LOOK FORWARD TO THE NEW ONE-SHOT, "Another Story," THE NEXT NEW CHAPTER OF HISOKA RETURNS! IN 4 YEARS!

密・リターンズ! ①

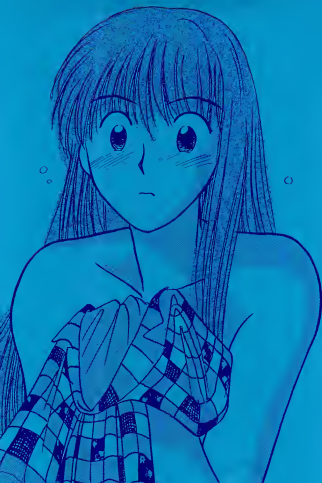
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